

Australian PM's onslaught condemned as unwise, offensive and historically inaccurate

Old soldiers and MPs leap to defend British reputation

OLD soldiers on this side of the world think that the Australian prime minister needs not so much a smack on his upstart Ocker bottom as a lesson in history.

Harold Payne fought his way down the Malayan peninsula, was captured at the fall of Singapore, spent three years at the unkind hands of the Japanese, and is now president of the Far East Prisoners of War Association. At his home at Tunbridge Wells, Kent, yesterday, Mr Payne said that he treated Paul Keating's remarks with the contempt they deserved and noted that Mr Keating was not even born at the time to which he had referred in the Canberra parliament.

"For a young man to say these things is very unwise," Mr Payne said. "What on earth must the widows and next-of-kin, both here and in Australia, think? It is very regrettable that such ill-chosen words were spoken."

Mr Payne has recently returned from commemorating the 50th anniversary of the fall of Singapore at Kranji war cemetery, an event attended by a large contingent of Australian ex-servicemen with whom, according to Mr Payne, their British counterparts enjoy a warm and enduring relationship.

"I was privileged to serve with Mr Keating's countrymen," Mr Payne said. "We fought all the way down Malaya and did our bit, as did they."

"I was saddened when Britain cut its trade ties with Australia and turned its attention to Europe, because they have always come readily to our assistance. But the fact that the world moves on does not change history, and Mr Keating's remarks are

Paul Keating's remarks are seen variously as just rude or as politicking, Alan Hamilton writes

not only offensive, but quite wrong."

Mr Payne, thinking of the Queen's visit to Australia, added that when you invite somebody as a guest to your country, whether you approve of her or not, it is a common courtesy to treat your guest with respect.

Conservative backbench MPs took instant umbrage as soon as Mr Keating's remarks were reported in London. Sir John Stokes (Halesowen and Stourbridge) said that he was astonished and dismayed, and demanded that Mr Keating apologise at once to the Queen and the British people.

"People in England will be hurt and angry about it," Sir John said. "It is quite untrue to say we deserted Australia in the war. We fought in Malaya and Singapore, and many British servicemen were killed. Australia was not attacked by Japan."

Anthony Beaumont-Dark (Birmingham, Selly Oak) said: "This is thoroughly despicable. He is trying to use the Queen for what he thinks is his political advantage."

Ted Leadbitter, Labour MP for Hartlepool, said: "The Australian prime minister has behaved like an utter buffoon."

At Australia House in London, a spokesman for Richard Smith, the High Commissioner, said: "We have no comment to make. We are saying nothing. We are neither approving nor disapproving."

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office, in one of its complicated verbal fox trots of trying to say something while appearing to say nothing, noted that Mr Keating's remarks appeared to have been made "in a domestic political context and to have been addressed to the Australian opposition."

"Our policy," the Foreign Office said, "is to work for strong and friendly relations with Australia, fully recognising both the common interests and shared values and the different perspectives of the two countries in their different regions."

The Queen, whose visit to Australia last week began the debate, remains magnificently detached from the fray, taking the view that the Queen of the United Kingdom and the Queen of Australia may be the same person but are entirely separate positions.

Buckingham Palace sees Mr Keating's remarks as belonging to the political rather than the constitutional arena, and as views that might have been better directed at John Major than at the Queen. The Palace does not regard yesterday's outburst as a piece of republicanism, merely a statement of Australia's present-day economic realities made in the knowledge that Mr Keating will soon have to fight an election.

Yesterday, the Palace studiously declined to enter the controversy, except to indicate that, whether or not any offence had been intended, certainly none had been taken. The veterans of the Burma railway are not so forgiving.

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History lesson, page 12



Faux pas: Paul Keating adopting a hands-on approach while escorting the Queen in Australia

Jumping on the anti-pom bandwagon

DESPITE the crowds that cheered the Queen on her Australian visit, Paul Keating, the prime minister, has probably done himself a power of good by tapping into the "anti-pom" sentiment that is prevalent. He is shrewd enough to see that it can divert attention from Australia's economic woes.

Yesterday, Mr Keating played on the anger that Australians felt over recent newspaper disclosures that Churchill was prepared to sacrifice Australia in the second world war. It was also recalled that in the first world war, Churchill was largely responsible for the Gallipoli disaster, in which Australia lost thousands of troops.

However, Mr Keating emphasised that he was not attacking the Queen, and that his tirade was against conservative Australian politicians who continue to look to Britain, and the royal family, when Australia's political and economic destiny lies in the Pacific region. Even John Howard, the former Liberal party leader, admitted as much

Australia's prime minister sees votes in bashing the British, Robert Cockburn writes

yesterday when he attacked Mr Keating's pommy-bashing. But many Australians, particularly the growing numbers from non-British backgrounds, find little relevance in the monarchy, while bearing no hostility towards the royal family.

What Mr Keating did yesterday, however, was generate some of the old waspish excitement he used to evoke in parliament. He had appeared tired and lacklustre when he won power from Bob Hawke last December, so he could well benefit from the outburst. From a working-class, Irish Catholic family and the tough western suburbs of Sydney, he saw little use in maintaining Australia's colonial ties. Unlike Mr Hawke, a middle-class Rhodes

Scholar who could turn on the common appeal, Mr Keating has shunned his background, despite its provision of genuine Labor party credentials. Mr Keating left school at 14, and did not go to university. Living for politics alone, he learnt his craft in the notoriously hard, right-wing faction of the New South Wales Labor party. His mentor, Jack Lang, the former New South Wales prime minister, taught him that politics is rough. As a result Mr Keating once declared: "There are very few friendships in politics." He has never been as popular as Mr Hawke, a handicap which could lose him the next general election.

Mr Keating is seen as Australia's first "yuppie" prime minister, who as treasurer was the architect of economic deregulation and a programme of privatisation in the 1980s and 1990s. While he yesterday condemned the ravages of "Thatcherite policies", he had, himself, learnt quite a bit from those very policies.

Sams in court over Dart killing

A man appeared before Birmingham magistrates yesterday charged with the kidnapping and murder of the Leeds teenager Julie Dart (Craig Seton writes).

Michael Sams, aged 50, a tool repairer, of Sutton on Trent, Nottinghamshire, who is accused of kidnapping Stephanie Slater, a Birmingham estate agent, was accused of kidnapping Miss Dart, aged 18, in Leeds on July 9, of murdering her between July 9 and July 19, and making a demand for £145,000 with menaces from West Yorkshire police between July 9 and October 23.

No application for bail was made. Mr Sams is to appear before magistrates again on March 26. Reporting restrictions were not lifted.

Hospices cash

The government last night announced an extra £37.2 million for the voluntary hospice movement in 1992-3, raising support to £57 million. Of the money, £31.7 million will be for use by health authorities to increase their contributions to hospices' running costs. There are 175 voluntary and health service hospices, 186 day hospices, and 360 nursing teams caring for patients at home.

1m gas debts

A million families have fallen behind with gas bill payments, British Gas said yesterday. More than one family in 18 is in arrears each owing an average of £152. The figures, disclosed as British Gas announced profits of £1.71 billion last year, show a 200,000 increase in the number of families with arrears over the year to December 31. Price peg likely, page 19

CORRECTION

Jane Sanig is a principal dancer with London City Ballet, and not Rambert Dance Company as stated in a picture caption in "Life and Times" yesterday.

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A BREATH OF FRESH AIR.

'I saw them together and just snapped'

Wife lived nightmare over major's affair

FROM IAN MURRAY IN VERDEN, LOWER SAXONY

THE wife of a British army major in Germany endured an eight-month "nightmare" over her husband's infidelity before trying to kill herself and later driving over his lover, a general court-martial in Verden, Germany, was told yesterday.

After running over Marika Sparfeldt, Catherine Dryland ran home and told her 16-year-old son: "I've killed her." When her son said: "She didn't deserve to die. Nobody deserves to die," Mrs Dryland answered: "Yes, she did."

Mrs Dryland, wife of Major Anthony Dryland, has pleaded guilty to manslaughter due to diminished responsibility. Two senior psychiatrists called by the defence said that Mrs Dryland was seriously depressed at the time of the incident and in a state where she was scarcely aware of what she was doing when she drove her Saab repeatedly into her husband's Mercedes and then ran over Frau Sparfeldt, causing injuries which killed her. Their evidence showed that Mrs Dryland had been suffering from depression for years and had tried to kill herself in 1974 when she learnt that her husband was having an affair.

Lieutenant Colonel John Coogan, of the Royal Army

Medical Corps, said that, on July 27 last year, Mrs Dryland discovered that her husband was going off to meet his lover for a birthday drink at their riding club. "It was in a state of utter despair that she drove her car at speed towards the stable wall to end her life," he said. "But she retained enough control to avoid colliding with her husband, who was standing between her and the wall."

"She continued her suicide attempt by turning to hit her husband's Mercedes. She said to herself: 'It will explode. It will all be over.'"

Lieutenant Colonel Coogan said that she was in a state of detachment when she drove over Frau Sparfeldt. She then ran home and calmly cancelled the babysitter. Later, she politely offered tea to the military police who came to arrest her.

On the way to the police station, she told her escort: "It's all so unreal. I've - well, we've all - been living a nightmare the last eight months." Later in the journey, she said: "The awful thing was, I didn't plan to do it. I just went up there and saw them together and just snapped."

Lieutenant Colonel Richard Spencer, prosecuting, said that "an adulterous relationship" developed between

Major Dryland and Frau Sparfeldt before he went to the Gulf war in January 1991. On his return in March, his wife challenged him about the relationship and, as a result, went to Australia for a month to see her parents.

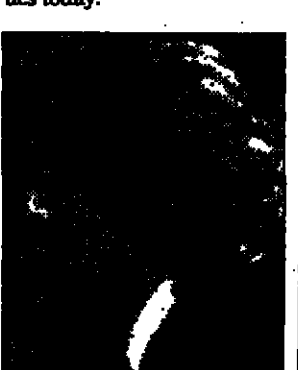
"During this time, Major Dryland saw much of Frau Sparfeldt and their relationship blossomed, so much so that she ended her relationship with her then partner and she and Major Dryland started to look for a flat together," Lieutenant Colonel Spencer said. When Mrs Dryland returned, her husband promised to break off the relationship, but did not do so.

"Things came to a head on the evening of Major Dryland's birthday, when he went to the riding club. Mrs Dryland arrived as the major and Frau Sparfeldt were about to go riding, and became abusive. Lieutenant Colonel Spencer said that Major Dryland persuaded his wife to go home and said that he would follow. "She got into the Saab, while he went towards the Mercedes... Major Dryland, at this point, heard the Saab's engine revving and the wheels spinning. He saw his wife drive the Saab at the front of the Mercedes, smashing one headlight. As he tried to get into the Mercedes to move it out of harm's way, he saw the Saab come towards him again and got out of the way, and it again hit the Mercedes."

The car was hit a third time and then "unfortunately Frau Sparfeldt came out of the stable". Both she and the major tried to open the Saab's doors but found the central locking had been applied. Mrs Dryland continued to circle the yard before running into Frau Sparfeldt, hitting her on the legs and throwing her over the bonnet, where her head and shoulder struck the windscreen and she was then run over by the car.

"Scientific evidence, recently obtained, shows that she was run over once only," the major said.

The court-martial continues today.



Dryland: has pleaded guilty to manslaughter



Military close-up: General Sir Peter de la Billière, British commander in the Gulf war, inspecting an honour guard yesterday after naming a locomotive Royal Air Force Regiment at King's Cross station

Reynolds pressed for abortion talks

OPPOSITION leaders in the Irish republic yesterday demanded a parliamentary debate on implications of the Supreme Court decision to let a 14-year-old rape victim travel to London to have an abortion.

Dick Spring, head of the Irish Labour party, described the affair as "the most important matter likely to arise in the Irish republic for a long time".

Alan Shatter, justice spokesman for the main opposition party, Fine Gael, said that the prime minister, Albert Reynolds, should call for meetings with party leaders to see what steps were necessary.

Meanwhile, the movements of the unidentified family at the centre of the controversy remained a mystery, but it was thought that plans for the girl to have an abortion in Britain would be re-activated.

The EC's senior internal market official has defended the European Commission's decision not to intervene in the Irish abortion case, and has admitted that the Treaty of Rome has severe shortcomings in tackling such a case (Tom Walker writes).

Martin Bangemann, whose job it is to see that the principle of freedom of movement for all EC citizens is established by next year, said that the treaty fell short of ensuring this fundamental right of the 1993 open market. "There we have a funda-

mental constitutional problem," Herr Bangemann, Germany's senior commissioner, told the European Parliament's legal affairs committee yesterday. "We were looking what we could do; we didn't want to interfere before the Irish court had taken a decision."

"The right of freedom of movement for the time being is not laid down in the articles of the Treaty of Rome. The only means we had available to counter the decisions at European level are articles 59 and 60 of the treaty, which concern services. That's a little absurd."

Herr Bangemann's statement may well presage a dispute before the end of the year between member countries and the Commission. In the meantime, because it talks only of the right to freedom of movement of workers, the only way EC law could be used to challenge the Dublin High Court's anti-abortion ruling in the girl's case was over the freedom to use services anywhere in the EC.

Classifying abortion as a service provoked anger at the committee meeting yesterday. "Comparing the denial of human life to getting your hair done or having a tooth filled is legal nonsense," Patrick Cooney, a Dublin EUDP in the Christian Democrat group, said.

Labour accused of right-wing policy

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

CONTROVERSY over government support for independent school pupils from low-income families came to a head yesterday with the Conservatives promising to consider an expansion of the assisted places scheme while Labour and the Liberal Democrats repeated their commitments to abolish it.

All three parties were represented at a London conference on the scheme organised by the Independent Schools Information Service. Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, said that opportunities for bright children from poor families would be lost if a Labour government disbanded the scheme.

Labour's policy of keeping the great public schools while abolishing the assisted places scheme would ensure that the poor were denied access to top schools. "This is a policy that should only be defended by the most right-wing and reactionary defender of the privileges of the wealthy," Mr Clarke said that the scheme would remain a vital component of the government's education policy. However, he ruled out subsidising boarding places.

Jack Straw, Labour's education spokesman, outlined plans to cater for the most

able pupils in state schools rather than supporting them in the independent sector. "We want and are determined to achieve a state sector education which caters for children of every ability level," he said.

"Parents don't want the false choice between a good and mediocre school. They want the certainty that wherever their children go to school, they get the very best."

The Labour scheme would encourage accelerated learning, with pupils moving up years, and training for teachers to recognise and support gifted children. Pupils already holding assisted places would continue to receive support, but the scheme would be phased out.

Matthew Taylor, the Liberal Democrat education spokesman, said that parents should have the right to send their children to independent schools, but government should not support private education when so many state schools did not have the funds for basic books and equipment. The assisted places scheme benefited only a very small minority of children, ignoring those most in need of extra help.

Leading article, page 13

Book at bedtime is one big yawn

BY JOE JOSEPH

ONE in two of us finds that reading is the best way of getting to sleep, according to a new survey of bedtime habits, which sounds like a big nuisance for the other one in two of us who might want the lights turned out.

The survey found that the second most popular tranquilliser, after reading, which was favoured by 51 per cent, was a hot bath (38 per cent), then sex (34 per cent), a warm drink (33 per cent), watching television (30 per cent) and alcohol (25 per cent). Of course, there is no reason why some of these activities could not be combined, such as reading in a hot bath, or watching television with a whisky in hand, although sex with a warm drink probably requires practice.

Apparently, nurses favour books, fire and ambulance men choose sex, police drink alcohol and postal workers watch television. This must be why they ask what your job is on dating agency applications.

The survey was commissioned by the National Bed Federation, which has declared that March will be National Bed Month.

Poll tax survey predicts £29 rise

BY PETER VICTOR

POLL tax payers in England and Wales face a £29 increase this year with the average community charge increasing to £277, according to the latest forecast from the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy.

The forecasts are based on estimates of local authority charges in England and Wales, which need not be fixed until March 11, and charges in Scotland which have already been fixed. The average charge in Scotland is £298 with payers facing an increase of £51.

The average expected increase for the whole of Great Britain is 12.8 per cent, equivalent to an increase of £31 per charge payer. The forecasts, prepared by IPF, the institute's research arm, for the BBC, are being updated.

Community charge payers in London are expected to face an average increase of 7.9 per cent. An Association of London Authorities survey based on figures from 27 of the 33 London councils shows that the poll tax will increase from £239 to £258.

Bryan Gould, the shadow environment secretary, said yesterday that most poll tax payers would receive a cheque from their council of up to £823 if their authority got the same "bribes" as Tory flagship councils. He said that cash had been "stolen" from the rest of the country to keep poll tax artificially low in Wandsworth and Westminster. Poll tax in 345 out of 366 council areas would be turned into a dividend if the government gave the same grant as was given to Wandsworth, he said.

Labour arrived at its figures by looking at the grant per head paid to Wandsworth (£1,423.70) and Westminster (£1,638.24) and examining what the position would be if similar amounts were paid to other councils.

English local authorities have collected 97 per cent of their 1990/91 budgeted community charge income and 67 per cent of this year's income, with three months of this year to go, the Department of the Environment said yesterday. Between September and December last year collection was 28.5 per cent compared with 28 per cent for the third quarter in 1990/91.

"Enforcement action has enabled authorities to collect 97 per cent of their 1990/91 budgeted income from community charges and I am confident that they will continue to recover the rest," Michael Portillo, local government minister, said.

The institute's survey shows that authorities in England and Wales may add £257 million to 1992/3 bills to cover non payments from previous years. That would be equivalent to £7.05 on the average bill.

Man dies after axe attack at school

A MAN died after being attacked with an axe in an argument with another man on a council-run horticultural training scheme for mature adults in the grounds of Cardinal Newman secondary school in Coventry yesterday.

Police said that the dead man, aged 30, who has not been named, had been hacked about the head and neck and a weapon had been recovered at the scene. Det Supt Malcolm Ross, of Coventry police, said: "There has been an incident involving two men. It appears there was some kind of altercation between them but we don't know at this stage what it was about but one man was struck with an axe and has died."

Police cordoned off an area of the school while a Home Office pathologist was called to the scene. A school spokeswoman said that no pupils or staff from the school were involved but pupils were sent home after the incident at 2.10pm.

Last night an unemployed man aged 20 was being questioned by police.

Country sports 'are more popular than the cinema'

BY PAUL WILKINSON

PEOPLE spent more in a year on hunting, shooting and fishing than on books or visiting live arts and entertainment, according to a survey published yesterday for a group supporting field sports.

They paid £1.4 billion, compared with £1.3 billion on books and £734 million on live shows, Lord Camarvon, chairman of the Standing Conference on Country Sports, said. Taking into account money spent by their sports organisers and indirect spending, more than £2.6 billion was put into the economy, he said.

In spite of increased pressure for bans on hunting, the number of people taking part in country sports is rising, the report says. There are now 3.9 million anglers, 829,000 people shooting game, clay pigeons and wildfowl, 13,000 deer stalkers and 243,000 people hunting with hounds.

The report suggests that support for some blood sports is growing outside the middle and upper classes. More than 56 per cent of shooters are skilled or semi-skilled and manual workers. The same group accounts for 68 per cent of anglers. The figures were given in a report arguing that country sports should be maintained "as an integral part of the national way of life".

Landscape, wildlife conservation and employment all benefit, the report said. Sports organisations, several government departments, including the agriculture min-

istry and the environment department, the National Trust and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds are among the 83 groups belonging to the conference.

The report, which covered 1990, found 77,500 landowners, syndicates and clubs involved in country sports, with 65,000 full-time jobs directly dependent on the sports, and another 60,000 indirectly dependent.

The government received £459 million from taxes, li-

cences and rates in 1990, and game worth £31.8 million, fish valued at £2.4 million and venison worth £3.4 million were sold as a result of sporting activity.

The report says that the increase in the sports should be viewed against a decline in real income in agriculture that has led farmers to diversify into country sports. Marginal agricultural areas, especially in Scotland, had gained from investment in tourism and rural sports.

WHO GOES FISHING AND SHOOTING?			
Socio-economic groups	Total population	Angling participants	Shooting participants
AB	15.5	20.0	19.5
C1	21.5	12.0	24.0
C2	35.5	47.0	34.5
DE	27.5	21.0	22.0
No of participants	4.8m	3.9m	0.9m
Source: Millward Brown Market Research; BASC			



Store staff reap rich rewards

SALES assistants at Laura Ashley have landed windfall payments totalling thousands of pounds after being allowed to ignore highly paid merchandising and sales executives and run their own shops.

Staff at ten stores spent four months deciding how to market the clothes, running their own fashion shows and making subtle changes within the shops to try to improve profits. They were given a free rein by head office, which normally dictates policy, and cash incentives linked to the percentage increases in the per target profits.

At the flagship store in Oxford Street, the 25 full and part-time staff were celebrating their share in £42,274 yesterday after increasing profits over four months to the end of January by 62.4 per cent. Eileen Jones, a manager aged 28, said: "We altered the lighting, changed window displays and played more upbeat music, as well as advertising locally and organising our own promotions. It was fun as well as doing wonders for staff motivation." The shop assistants' average annual salary is £8,300.

Steve Conter, managing director, said that he was impressed by the success of the scheme, which saw profits at the Liverpool store increase by 139 per cent. "The test has been extremely successful in proving that staff react quickly and effectively when given the freedom to make commercial decisions."

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REPLY WITHIN 14 DAYS

Guide killed on Kenyan game reserve

Safari holiday firms demand security

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

TOUR operators are to meet the Kenyan government today to demand increased security in the country's game reserves after a guide was killed in an attack on a tourist bus.

Bandits posing as policemen shot the guide and robbed 11 Austrians on the coach in the latest in a series of attacks on British, German and American tourists which has led to official warnings to avoid the worst areas.

Kevin and Sally Colgan, who were among a party of seven British tourists attacked earlier this week in the Masai Mara, were yesterday recovering at home in Woking, Surrey. They said that they had been watching hippos in the Mara Serena Lodge game park when they were surrounded by bandits wielding shotguns, machetes

and sharpened sticks. The tourists were forced to run through the bush for 45 minutes as their attackers discussed robbing the women and beat anyone who fell behind. Several times they were forced to cross a crocodile-infested river.

"It must have been truly terrifying," Captain David Drummond, head of security for the Kenya Tour Operators Association, said.

Mr Colgan, aged 46, a British Transport Police inspector, said that their lives were probably saved by their guide who eventually persuaded the attackers to let them go. They were robbed of cash, jewellery, a camera and clothing.

The attacks, together continuing publicity over the murder of Julie Ward, have worried local tourist leaders

who fear that visitors who bring in more than \$400 million a year to the country could be scared off.

The Kenya Association of Tour Operators said that the attacks had prompted cancellation of visits to the park, one of Africa's biggest wildlife reserves. Sammy Mwaura, chairman of the association, said: "Unless immediate action is taken to bring the situation under control, we fear that our overseas agents will force us to declare a total ban on travel to Masai Mara."

Such a ban would lead to the collapse of the tourist trade and the leading foreign exchange earner for Kenya, Mr Mwaura said.

Germany provides the biggest contingent of foreign visitors with 120,000 tourists last year. This week the German government urged its nationals and tour operators to boycott Masai Mara.

Six attacks on tourist groups have taken place in the past three months in the park which is the most popular with western visitors. Unlike Kenya's other 25 national parks, Masai Mara, which extends into Tanzania as the Serengeti Park, is not patrolled by rangers of the Kenya Wildlife Service.

The Foreign Office said that although there was no reason why Britons should not travel to Kenya it would be prudent to avoid the remote areas and the administrative districts of Tana River and Garissa, the southern end of the Masai national park and the road from Malindi to Lamu.

Kuoni and Thomson, who together take 30,000 holiday-makers a year to Kenya out of the 100,000 Britons who visit the country each year, said that they were "watching the situation" but that they had no reason so far to amend any of their planned itineraries.



Supporting role: Ken Windess, head of maintenance at Longleat House, Wiltshire, checking the lower dining room's sagging ceiling, which was saved from collapse by the insertion yesterday of a girder in the floor above

BR agrees to redress for one-off travellers

By NICHOLAS WOOD
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

ALL rail travellers will be entitled to compensation for badly disrupted journeys under the passenger's charter. British Rail had wanted compensation confined to season ticket holders and wrangling with the government has delayed publication of the charter.

Ministers have persuaded BR to extend redress to passengers making single journeys. Malcolm Rifkind, the transport secretary, and Sir Bob Reid, chairman of BR, will launch the charter next week.

Season ticket holders are likely to be given free extensions of their permits to cover periods when their services are seriously disrupted. Passengers making one-off journeys are expected to get vouchers entitling them to a free ticket for a subsequent journey.

The charter will define what constitutes serious disruption. One suggestion is a delay of an hour or more. Passengers whose services are cancelled at short notice and who choose not to travel are likely to be given a refund.

The charter's pledges of more generous compensation will be tied to other changes to ensure that passengers are given clear information on minimum standards of service and complaints procedures. Performance targets for punctuality and standards will have to be widely publicised at stations.

Ministers believe that their success in persuading BR to extend the possibility of compensation to all passengers will strengthen the credibility of the citizen's charter. The decision to launch the charter within weeks of the election campaign will be a relief to Tory MPs in marginal seats in the South. The charter will be of greatest direct benefit to the 500,000 London commuters who use Network SouthEast.

Setback to charities in dispute over will

A dispute over who should inherit the £700,000 estate of Norman Warne, the former fiancé of Beatrix Potter and son of the founder of the publishing company that owned the copyright to her works, is to continue in court.

A claim by Kevin Durrane, who lives in Mr Warne's Brighton home, is disputed by the RSPCA and the Cats Protection League. The charities stand to inherit under a will made before Mr Warne left a hand-written will leaving Mr Durrane everything.

In the High Court yesterday, Judge Hague granted Mr Durrane's request to be allowed to defend his claim under wills made by Mr Warne in 1985 and 1986. The charities had said that he should not be allowed to put in a late defence to their action to establish the validity of the 1982 will because he had been made bankrupt.

The judge said that Mr Durrane must put in his defence within 14 days and pay £3,000 towards the charities' costs for the abortive hearing.

Police vehicle kills man

An enquiry began yesterday after a police Range Rover carrying firearms officers killed a man on a pedestrian crossing in south London. Biniam Aran, aged 28, of Lambeth, was dead on arrival at hospital after the incident in Stockwell at midnight.

The Range Rover, containing an inspector and two constables, had been called to an incident in southwest London. A Metropolitan police spokesman said that the vehicle was not a special armed response unit, but was simply transporting the officers.

Baby damages

Nuala Breen, of Wood Green, north London, was awarded £16,190 in damages by the High Court for pain and suffering endured after her baby died within minutes of birth. She claimed that staff at North Middlesex hospital, Edmonton, had failed to monitor it properly. Haringey health authority admitted responsibility.

Referee penalty

Malcolm Armstrong, aged 43, a soccer referee from Norwich, has been suspended after punching a player when he queried a decision. Mr Armstrong then walked off, and the match, in the Norfolk Sunday League Division Four, was abandoned.

Player fined

Chris Woods, aged 32, the England goalkeeper, was banned from driving for two weeks and fined £100 at Alfreton, Derbyshire, for driving at up to 105mph on the M1.

Writers plead case for libraries

The Save Our Libraries campaign was launched yesterday amid charges by the arts minister of politicking. Simon Tait reports

THE Jubilee Room of the House of Commons was crisscrossed by the literary yesterday when the Library Association launched its Save Our Libraries campaign.

Lady Antonia Fraser, Michael Holroyd, Margaret Drabble, Alice Thomas Ellis, David Lodge, Nina Baym and Shirley Hughes were among those rubbing shoulders with librarians, publishers and local authority officials to give their support and to hear politicians explain how they were going to ensure the survival of public libraries.

Ken Follett, the British spy novelist, said the success in America of British writers such as Jeffrey Archer, D. M. Thomas and himself was because they had access to free books in public libraries when they were children. His first best-seller, *Eye of the Needle*, was based in Scotland which he had never visited. All his information was gleaned from library books.

Labour and Liberal Democrat policies on libraries were delivered by the parties' respective arts spokesmen, Mark Fisher and Robert MacLennan, who both accepted the Library Association's own manifesto for libraries.

Tim Renton, the arts minister, was absent. He wrote instead to George Cunningham, the association's chief

executive: "Your association is deliberately seeking to exploit individual problems in order to paint an excessively gloomy picture throughout the country. There is no 'crisis' in the public library service."

Mr Renton accused Mr Cunningham, a former Labour and Social Democrat MP, of playing politics. He said that gross expenditure on libraries had risen by 18 per cent over the past ten years and that 29 new library buildings were opened in England in 1990.

Mr Cunningham said that, ten years ago, 163 libraries were open for more than 60 hours a week, whereas only 10 were now. Derbyshire had closed 11 branch libraries, Sheffield had cut book buying by half last year, North Tyneside had cut opening hours by 62 per cent, and school library services had been withdrawn. Staffordshire was expected to agree last night to close ten libraries.

Mr Cunningham said that Mr Renton's absence "shows a degree of contempt for the concern about the perilous state of libraries in this country, so that whichever government is in power later this year might wonder whether the present minister is the right person for the job".

Leading article, page 13

Dole queue camouflaged as a career move

By BILL FROST

QUESTION: When is redundancy not redundancy? Answer: When you worked for computer giant IBM and then want to claim unemployment benefit.

Such is the unwillingness of the American company to call a spade a spade that 2,000 former staff, now surplus to requirements, were deprived of their gobs by social security officers convinced that the dismissed were being retrained.

IBM employees thought they had been given the long white envelope until they arrived at the dole office to collect their benefit. When civil servants contacted the company they

were told staff had not been shown the door at all but were on "a career transition programme".

The delicate jargon coined by IBM, whose UK headquarters are in Portsmouth, baffled the bureaucrats and infuriated redundant workers when they were told that they were not entitled to any money.

Colin Greenham, aged 47, from Havant, Hampshire, and an IBM man for 20 years, decided not to get mad but to get even. Yesterday, he and, by implication, his 1999 redundant colleagues, were vindicated by a social security tribunal which ruled that redundancy remains redundancy no matter how flowery the prose used by the former employer.

Mr Greenham said he was told by the firm that his job was being phased out. He could accept a pay-off or be retrained for a job he did not want. He agreed to the offer, like hundreds of other employees, thinking he was accepting voluntary redundancy. At the dole office, the scales fell from his eyes.

"When they contacted IBM to check the circumstances, they were told I had not been made redundant," Mr Greenham said. "According to the firm I was taking part in a career transition programme. The dole office told me that it meant I was not entitled to any social security benefits because I had left the job of my own accord without a good

reason. I was dumfounded. I thought I had accepted voluntary redundancy. I gave up the chance of loads of IBM benefits when I left."

Mr Greenham appealed to the local social security tribunal of the employment department, like hundreds of other former-IBM employees, after seeking legal guidance from a Citizens Advice Bureau. The tribunal agreed he had been made redundant and said others who had been put on the same "career transition programme" could also come forward.

IBM said yesterday that the career transition programme, or "CTP", was in effect voluntary redundancy.

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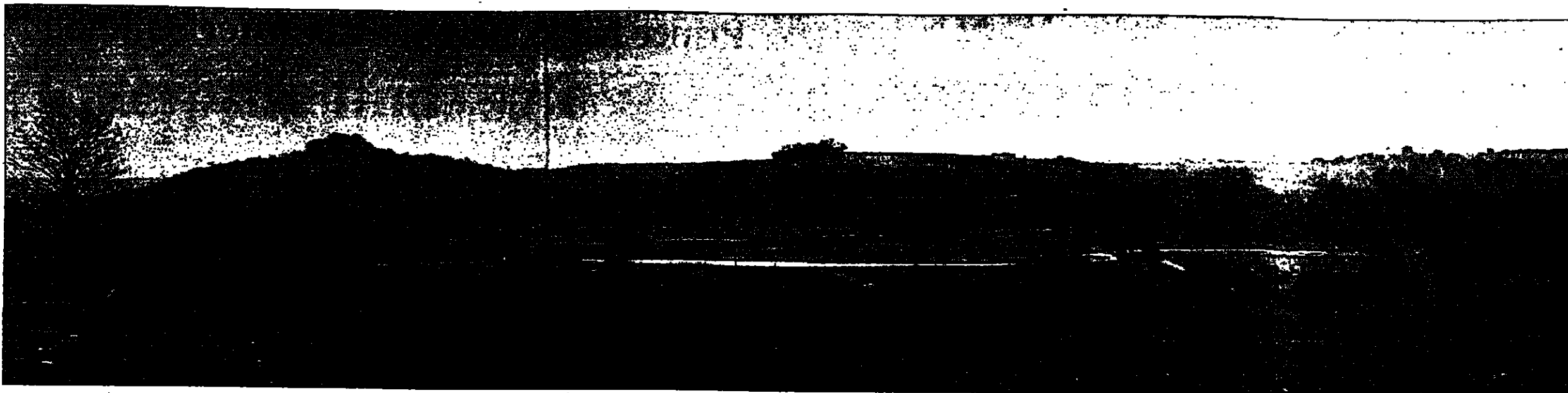
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Battleground: Twyford Down, where the bulldozers will be free to move into the environmentally protected areas tomorrow. Mainstream campaigners fear a serious clash between Earth First! members and the police

Radical greens became disillusioned by slow progress

Violence born of frustration

ECO-VIOLENCE, the phenomenon that has crossed the Atlantic and threatens to assert itself in the tranquil chalk downland of Hampshire, first appeared in the United States during the early 1980s.

The militant environmental movement Earth First! has its origins in the American South-West, where a group of environmentalists began to express frustration with the slow pace of progress made by traditional organisations.

Galvanised by the conviction that the mainstream groups were unable to influence conventional politics, Earth First! formulated a more confrontational approach, designed to shock people into realising that the American wilderness was slowly disappearing.

Writing in the *Earth First! Journal*, Dave Foreman, one of the co-founders of the group, exhorted his readers to sabotage hydro-electric dams, lumber mills and nuclear power plants to try to

Michael Dynes on the history of Earth First!, the militant US environmental movement that has taken hold in Britain

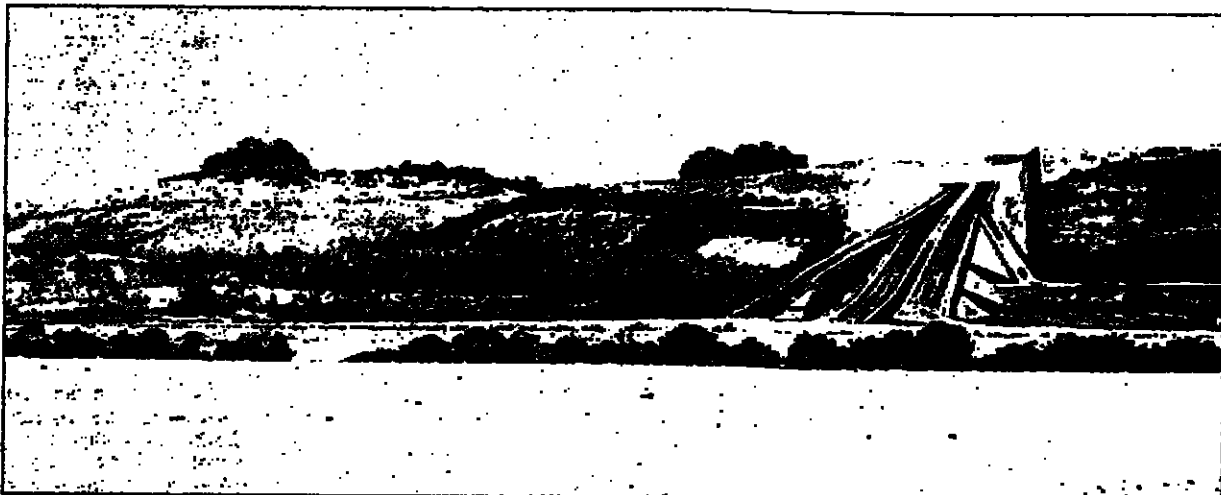
bring a halt to what he characterised as the relentless and destructive march of modern technology.

Supporters of Earth First! see themselves as the new warrior class. "Earth First! are warriors. And if you aren't a warrior, then I suggest you find another group," Mr Foreman would say at public meetings. "It's time for a warrior society to rise up out of the earth and put ourselves in front of the juggernaut of destruction."

Earth First! drew its inspiration from *The Monkeywrench Gang*, a novel by the late Edward Abbey, first published in 1975, in which the hero was a modern-day Luddite who roamed around the American countryside destroying machinery by monkeywrenching: throwing a

spanner in the works. For those environmentalists disillusioned with the achievements of the mainstream groups, violence appeared to promise rapid progress.

By 1985, Mr Foreman had codified the techniques in what was to become the es-



Through road: how the down would look when the extension to the M3 has been completed

Twyford Down fears, page 1



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M3 work to go on

THE long-standing campaign to save Twyford Down from being sliced in two by a motorway cutting approaches its final stages this weekend as the government prepares to send in the bulldozers (Michael Dynes writes).

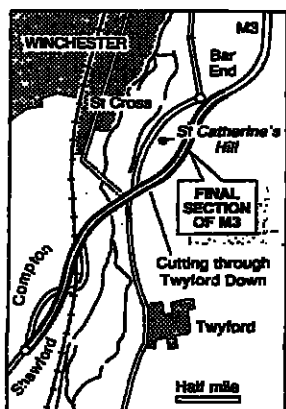
After midnight on Saturday there will no longer be any domestic legal impediment to the building of the final section of the M3 in Hampshire.

Carlo Ripa di Meana, the European environment com-

missioner, has tried to halt the scheme, at least until Brussels has decided whether the project complies with European environment laws. The government insists that the Commission is acting beyond its powers.

The origins of the dispute lie in a conflicting interpretation of the 1985 Environmental Impact Assessment directive, which became effective in 1988. Under the legislation, all member states must assess the environmental impact of any scheme and publish a non-technical summary of the findings before deciding whether to proceed.

Although the government did not give final approval for the M3 scheme until February 1990, the draft orders for the last section of the M3 were published in February 1985, long before the directive came into effect. The government says that any schemes planned before the directive came into being must be excluded from its provisions. The Commission, however, defines planning consent as final approval.



British firms fail car patriotism test

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

WHILE the British worker ponders his choice of new company car from a multinational list, the French simply say "non" to models not made at home.

Figures published yesterday show that while the predilection for company cars is just as great in other European nations as it is here, the British lag far behind when it comes to supporting their national motor industry.

Most British companies allow their employees to choose cars made in any of the European Community nations, while others are even starting to admit Japanese cars to their fleet lists.

In France, nine out of ten sales representatives use a Citroën, Peugeot or Renault at the insistence of their companies.

In Britain, a sales representative is just as likely to be driving a Renault as a Rover, according to a survey by the Monks Partnership into company car use. The survey found only 10 per cent of sales representatives in Britain were restricted to a British-built model.

At senior management level, the rules on buying British are relaxed almost to the point of non-existence. Only 4 per cent of British companies insist that the boss drives a British car.

Monks Partnership European Company Car Survey 1992, price £150, from Monks Partnership, Debden Green, Saffron Walden, Essex CB1 3LX.

Motoring
L&T section, page 7

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Recession raises fears of general election delay

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

AMID a flurry of discouraging opinion polls and economic statistics, Conservative MPs are beginning to worry that the election might have to be postponed after all.

Politicians are agreed that election is likely to turn on the perceived economic competence of the main parties and the "economic optimism" of the electorate. Ministers are aware that the one element over which they have total control, and which will influence both those factors, is the Budget on March 10.

Neither main party has broken clear in the opinion polls. The Tories are suffering from the recession, in which the uncertainty of the election outcome has itself become a factor. Labour is suffering from Tory exposure of the further edges of its policies on tax and national insurance. With the Liberal Democrats edging up steadily, both will be awaiting anxiously the latest economic optimism index from Mori, due to be published on Sunday.

The index, obtained by subtracting the percentage who believe the economy will get worse over the next 12 months from the percentage who believe it will get better, has a close relationship to voting intention support for the government, as the accompanying graph shows. In the 18-34 age group and among those aged over 55, the correlation between eco-

nomic optimism and voting intention since last September has been almost exact.

Through most of 1987, when the index (on a quarterly basis) was showing a positive reading, the Tories had a double-figure lead in the opinion polls. The index turned to a minus figure in July 1988, with pessimists outweighing optimists by five points. As it continued to fall the Tory lead was turned round, and when in April 1990 the index reached its worst point in this parliament of minus 37 points, the Tories fell the same month to their worst poll figure, 23 points behind Labour.

Through 1991 the index varied from plus five points to minus seven, while the Tories varied from a five-point lead to a six-point deficit. Tory election planners took heart from the fact that, despite the

recession, economic optimism, which dipped to minus 17 points just after Christmas, recovered in January to minus 1.

A poll by Gallup for the European Commission has shown that British electors' expectations that their own financial situation will improve over the next year have risen more or less steadily since March 1990, with a small increase between January and February.

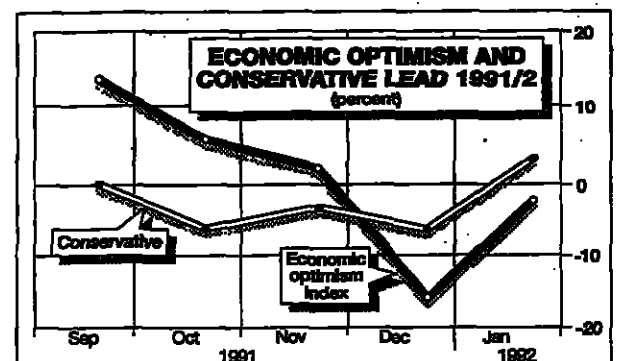
At the same time, Mori's figures have suggested, against the conventional wisdom, that the government has widened its lead over Labour in the electorate's perception of the parties' economic competence. In October the Tories led Labour 38-26, a 12-point lead. In January it was 41-25, a 16-point lead. Labour's line of attack, that it would be irresponsible to

increase borrowing to fund tax cuts, has been seeking to destroy any advantage the government might hope to get from Budget tax cuts and to close the gap on economic competence. However, 48 per cent of those polled by ICM for the *Daily Mail* last week believed that tax cuts would aid economic recovery, only a third backed Labour's line that it would be better done with government spending. Economic evidence about other countries' problems has undermined Labour's case that the recession is manufactured in Downing Street.

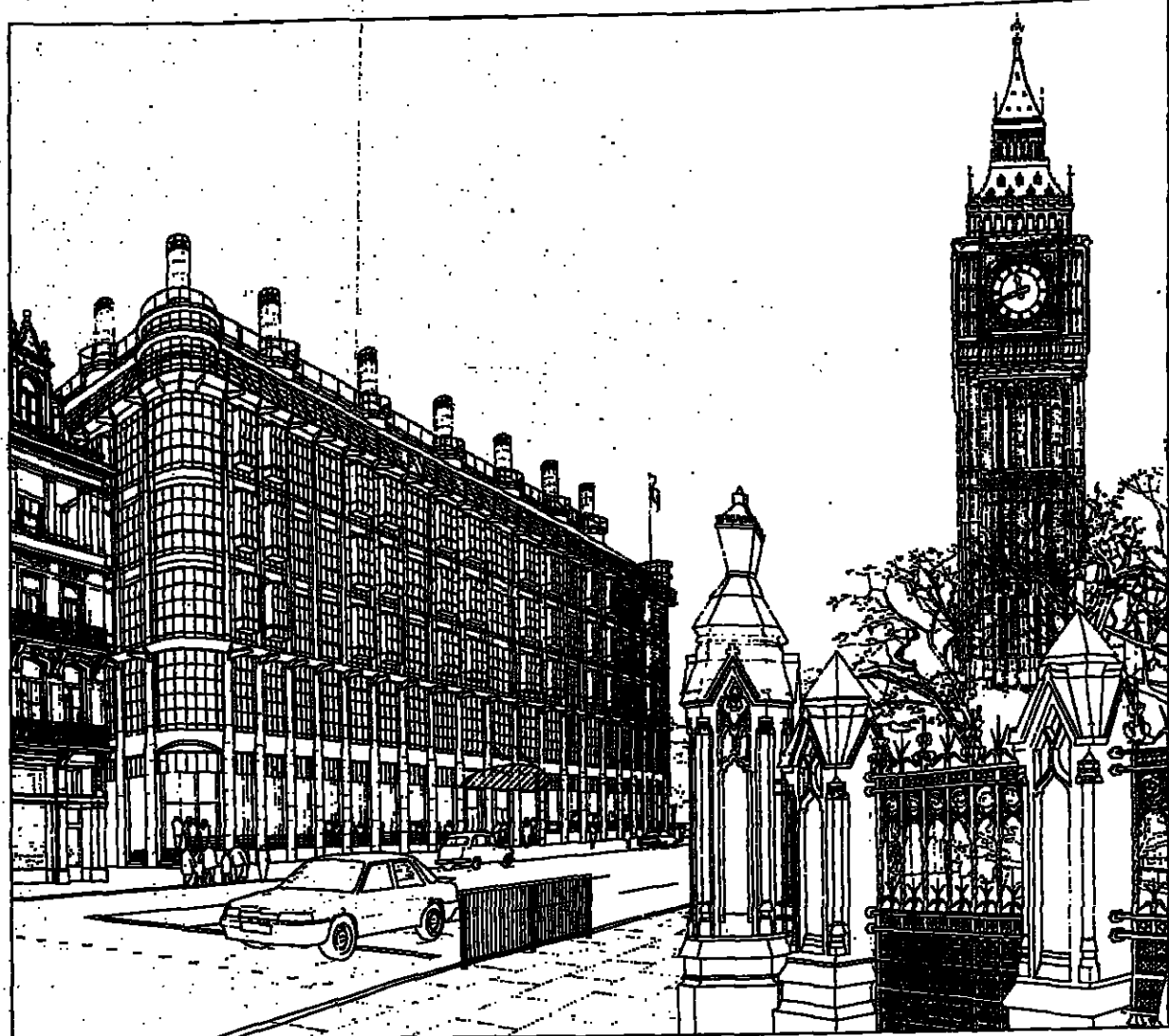
The nearest parallel to the present situation is 1955, when a Tory government which had been at level-pegging in the polls for months introduced a tax-cutting budget in April before facing the electors in May. The pattern of the polls went like this:

	Con	Lab	Lib
Jan	48	45	7
Feb	48	45	7
Mar	46	45	9
Apr	46	47	7
May	50	46	4

On that occasion the Budget broke the public opinion deadlock. The Tories opened up a lead and went on to win. In 1974, when the election was held on February 28, the parties were equally deadlocked the month before. Without the benefit of a Budget, the Tories were defeated. Of six Tory Chancellors since the war who have introduced Budgets in the election run-up, four have cut taxes: each time the Tories won the election. In April 1964 and in March 1973 Tory Chancellors chose a more cautious approach, and they did not.



Prince backs new Westminster building



Vision of the future: a sketch of the second phase of the new parliamentary building, unveiled by Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary yesterday. Mr Heseltine said the building would "complement rather than compete" with the House of Commons on the other side of the road (Bill Sherman writes). He disclosed that the Prince of Wales, arbiter of architectural taste, had also given his support to the seven-storey

building which will be set on top of Westminster Underground station. Plans for the £130 million building, which is expected to be completed by the summer of 1997, will go before the Commons on March 9 for approval, before funds are committed from the Treasury. The Commons accommodation and works committee, which published its sketch plan report on the new building yesterday, hopes work will begin in June 1993.

However, its report admits that London Underground has estimated the construction could be delayed by two years. The new building, built of stone and bronze, will not be allowed to outshine its gothic neighbour, the Palace of Westminster. Designed by architects Michael Hopkins and Partner, it will straddle the District and Circle Underground lines and be built around a central courtyard covered with a glazed roof.

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Talks on internment hinted at

By PETER MULLIGAN

PETER Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary, yesterday highlighted claims that internment would be more effective if it covered the whole of Ireland.

He indicated that he had discussed the issue with Albert Reynolds, Ireland's new prime minister, but stuck to the convention of refusing to discuss it in detail. "If it were to be introduced, it would be introduced without notice. There have been commentators who say it would be much more effective if it were to be introduced throughout Ireland," he said.

He was responding to MPs who urged him either to adopt the measure as a means of rounding up terrorists or to reject it on the grounds that it would cause more violence. He was speaking on the eve of today's meeting with the leaders of the four main constitutional parties in Northern Ireland to try to find a basis for continuing talks about the political future of the province.

The government also announced that there would be a rare full Commons debate on the situation in Northern Ireland next Thursday, following discussions between the party leaders and the prime minister.

During Commons questions, Labour made clear that it would be implacably opposed to the reintroduction of internment. Kevin MacNamara, the party spokesman, said it would be the height of folly.

Ashdown defence plan limits Trident firepower

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Liberal Democrats yesterday refined their policy on nuclear defence, suggesting for the first time that the Trident missile system could have a lower level of firepower than Polaris.

Paddy Ashdown, his defence spokesman, Member of Parliament, presented a new programme for a radical review of British defence policy in the wake of the collapse of the Soviet empire, promising to halt any orders for new weapons systems, such as the tactical air-to-surface missile.

With Labour going on the defence offensive, accusing the government of destroying 250,000 jobs in the defence industries and doing nothing to replace them, the Liberal Democrats said that the four Trident submarines should not be equipped with any more warheads than currently deployed on Polaris. This

would mean a maximum of 192, compared with the Trident maximum of 512 laid down in the government's new policy paper, *Shared Security*, stated. "Whether even this level of firepower will still be needed to assure the security of the United Kingdom should also be open to review. Given the disintegrating condition of the former Soviet anti-missile defences it may well be possible that an appropriate level of minimum deterrence can be provided by a lower level of firepower than Polaris currently provides, particularly since Trident is a much more powerful weapon and its warheads are capable of independent targeting."

The Liberal Democrats support for the retention of four boats distinguishes them from Labour, whose policy statements commit them to cancelling the fourth boat.

Despite Mr Ashdown's statement that he would not join a coalition that did not take defence seriously, which meant keeping the fourth boat, the difference would be unlikely to present an obstacle in hung parliament negotiations.

Labour is already saying that because the fourth boat is under construction it will wait until assuming office to see whether the cancellation penalties are too great to scrap the order.

The formula is widely seen as giving it latitude to keep the boat. Mr Campbell said: "Let me make a prediction. If there is a Labour government it will not cancel the fourth boat."

Gerald Kaufman, the shadow foreign secretary, accused the government of betraying the defence workers who equipped the armed forces to defeat Saddam Hussein. He promised that Labour's proposed defence diversification agency would work with the defence industries to safeguard the jobs and skills of defence workers, enabling them to be deployed in other areas.

The week in Parliament

The main business in the House of Commons next week is expected to be: Monday: Debate on asylum and immigration. Debate on select committee report on sittings of the House. Tuesday: Further and Higher Education Bill, remaining stages. Wednesday: Guillotine motion on and consideration of Lords amendments to Local Government Finance Bill. Thursday: Debates on Yugoslavia and on Northern Ireland. Friday: Debate on private member's motion on commonhold and leasehold reform.

Museum accused over bequest

By JOHN WINDER

THE British Museum was accused in the House of Lords yesterday of not passing on to the British Library money bequeathed by George Bernard Shaw because of his gratitude for the days he had spent in the old British Museum Reading Room, seen as the predecessor of the new library at St Pancras, London.

Viscount Eccles, a former Conservative education secretary, said that the museum trustees should provide £75,000, or whatever was needed, to the library for the purchase of Ellen Terry's letters to Bernard Shaw, reported to be on the market for about £75,000. A library official said last night that it was an obvious occasion on which the library could expect the museum to help in a purchase.

Lord Annan, a former British Museum trustee, had tabled a question asking whether the government com-



Annan: questioning use of Shaw money

sidered that Shaw's bequest to the British Museum had been used "as it should have been", primarily for the benefit of the British Library. Viscount Astor, for the government, said the bequest had been used partly for the benefit of the museum library, and also, since 1973, for the library.

Lord Annan said that the receipts from the Shaw royalties, which had been augmented by performances of *My Fair Lady*, had been passed to the museum trustees in accordance with the terms of Shaw's will.

The sum received from the administrators of the Shaw estate totalled £3 million, and if that sum continued to be invested in the sagacious way Viscount Eccles had invested it when he was chairman of the museum trustees, it would now amount to £10 million or £15 million. It was odd that the library had received only £470,000, and odder that the fund's accounts appeared to be "privity to the British Museum".

Viscount Astor, quoted Enrys Hughes, a Scottish Labour MP, as saying that Shaw had great affection for the Museum reading room, not merely as a place to read in, but for warmth when he had not much money.

AROUND THE LOBBY

British forces win praise

On the first anniversary of the Gulf war, John Major praised British forces for their role. At prime minister's questions he said: "The way in which Saddam Hussein still behaves is unacceptable to us, unacceptable to the United Nations, unacceptable to the international community, and we will continue to put pressure on him."

Tory challenge

The Anti-Federalist League, the right-of-centre group which campaigns against closer European integration, is putting up at least four candidates in the election. One will fight William Waldegrave, the health secretary, in Bristol West, and another will fight Chris Patten, in Bath.

Ships plea

John Major said at question time that he would continue to press EC partners to end the unfair subsidies for shipbuilders.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Private member's motion on registration of MPs' interests. Lords (11): Motion to re-new Prevention of Terrorism Act.

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Spirit of partnership shows way for Heseltine's £20m package for rural economy

Enterprise finds safe harbour at Whitby

A PACKAGE of rural assistance measures, including a £3.6 million pilot scheme to stimulate the rural economy, was announced by the government yesterday.

Action for the Countryside, launched by Michael Heseltine, environment secretary, and John Gummer, agriculture minister, will direct £20 million towards rural development over the next three years, funded through English Nature, the Countryside Commission and the Rural Development Commission.

Such a scheme has long been sought by rural authorities and agencies, who see long-term partnerships as the only way to promote jobs in areas where the private sector has no interest. Such organisations are hoping that those who are assessing schemes for the pilot projects will look to North Yorkshire for ideas and inspiration.

Development commission officials have highlighted Whitby as a special case. With a population of 14,000, the town is technically an urban area according to the commission's definition, whereby a rural area has a population of 12,000 or less. But because of the town's location on a coastline where transport links to motorways and railways are difficult, it has been identified as an area where the commission can invest.

A number of partnership projects jointly funded by the county council and the Rural Development Commission have opened or are due to open shortly. One is the St Hilda's workshop project in Whitby. The former hospital and workhouse is set high on a hill overlooking the harbour and the building is being converted into 30,000 square feet of units ranging in size from a one-man office to a brewery on the ground floor. The council and the development commission spent £850,000 carrying out the work after buying the 150-year-old building in 1989 for £450,000 from an architect who had tried privately to fund its conversion into workshops.

Steve Leatherbarrow, assistant economic development officer at North Yorkshire County Council, said: "This is a typical example of an economic development initiative that could not have been funded by the private sector. We do not expect to see a

The pilot project for growth in the countryside would do well to look north for a model, writes Ray Clancy

return on our capital expenditure for about 15 years."

Businesses already in the building include a small brewery and a fudge factory. There is also an environmental project, which creates jobs for the long-term unemployed. Two teams will carry out planting schemes, waste-land clearing, footpath improvements and wildlife conservation in the town and the surrounding countryside. Andy Jones, the Whitby environmental improvements project's development manager, has just recruited his first team of 12, which includes several people who have never had a job.

The Thornton Road industrial estate, developed by the commission outside the market town of Pickering, was developed in 1984 with the aim of providing rented units and encouraging other businesses to the area.

Precision Etchings, a company that designs and manufactures printed circuitry, was one of the first to move and has continued to expand. It started with three workers and now employs 40, including a large number of women who have been attracted by the flexible working hours.

Mike Flynn, the company's works manager, said: "Some of our staff used to be in very mundane jobs in factories. I have seen them come here and blossom. They have been trained in new skills such as computing, and have also developed their personalities."

Throughout North Yorkshire, only three of the eight district councils have not been involved in partnership schemes such as the Thornton Road estate and the St Hilda's workshops. Lord Downe, who has a 20,000 acre estate near Scarborough, North Yorkshire, is a champion of high technology in the countryside. On his estate he has been a pioneer of farm diversification. His project includes a 20-year gravel extraction programme which has now been running for a decade, conservation to turn the lakes left behind into an attractive tourist area, a tree-growing business and a

caravan and camping park. He has also been a pioneer as far as creating new jobs is concerned. Although the arable farm at his Wykeham estate employs only five people instead of the 40 who would have worked the land 50 years ago, other jobs have been created in the diversified areas. As a result the estate now employs twice the number of people that it did in 1965.

He is also a firm believer that *Action for the Countryside* is an important initiative. He says that it will change attitudes to investment in the countryside, bring rural organisations closer together, and encourage the private sector to invest.

Bryan Gould, the shadow environment secretary, dismissed the package yesterday. "The free market does not serve the environment if left to its own devices. Good government, citizen action, corporate responsibility all have their part to play," Mr Gould said.



Sweet success: the fudge factory in the St Hilda's workshop project in Whitby

Mother fights murder verdict

MEDICAL evidence suggesting that a mother whose baby son had been diagnosed as a cot-death victim had actually drowned him in the bath was "wholly unsupported", the Court of Appeal was told yesterday.

Jacqueline Fletcher, aged 27, is seeking leave to appeal against her conviction in 1988 of the murder four years previously of her six-week-old son, Glen. Fletcher, of Nuneaton, Warwickshire, was jailed for life by Mr Justice Kennedy at Birmingham crown court.

David Martin-Sperry, for Fletcher, told Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Rose and Mr Justice Potts that the unmarried mother was prosecuted after a social worker heard her tell another of her children: "If you don't shut up, I will do the same what I done to the other one."

The baby, found dead in Fletcher's dirty, unheated flat — his father was serving a prison sentence — had been thought to have been a cot death victim. However, the trial jury had been told that Fletcher had confessed to police that she had held her son's head under water while suffering post-natal depression. Mr Martin-Sperry said

that a pathologist, Peter Andrews, had backed the Crown's case that Glen had been drowned, but that this was wholly unsupported. The doctor had said, in layman's language, that the child's lungs were "waterlogged".

The fluid to which Dr Andrews had referred had been a naturally-produced bodily fluid, counsel said. The error had been left uncorrected by the witness and had been repeated by the trial judge in summing-up.

"The effect on the jury of this most unfortunate choice of words is really impossible to quantify," Mr Martin-Sperry said. "We say that error on its own raises questions about the jury's verdict."

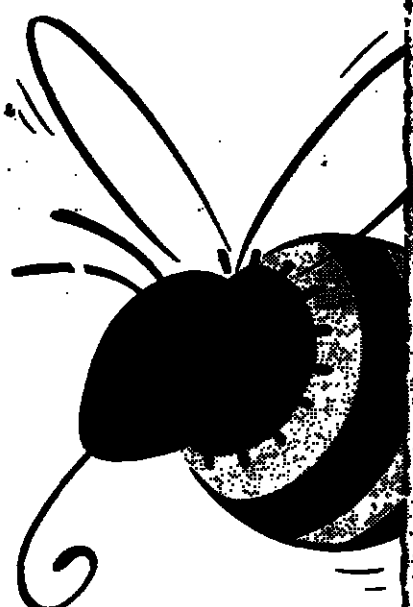
Mr Martin-Sperry argued that the medical evidence, "irregular" interviews by police and the unreliability of Fletcher's confession, rendered her conviction "neither safe nor satisfactory".

Fletcher's case was taken up by Justice, the British section of the International Commission of Jurists. BBC's *Rough Justice* television programme criticised police for taking her confession in the absence of her solicitor.

The hearing continues today.

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Architect wins libel damages

Sir Norman Foster the architect won an apology and "appropriate" libel damages in the High Court yesterday over allegations that he had made abusive and unprintable comments about the Prince of Wales.

The allegations appeared in the *Evening Standard*, London, last September in an article about the prince's School of Architecture in Italy. Nicholas Armstrong, Sir Norman's solicitor, said that Mira Bar-Hillel, who wrote the article, claimed to have been told that Sir Norman had discussed the prince in terms ranging from the "merely abusive to the downright unprintable".

Mr Armstrong said that Sir Norman had not discussed the prince at all. The paper accepted that the claim had no foundation, apologised and agreed to pay damages and legal costs.

Yusupov leads

Arthur Yusupov, the former Soviet grandmaster now living in Germany, led the Top Flight International chess tournament in Linares, Spain, with three points after three rounds. In joint second place were Gary Kasparov and Boris Gelfand, both of Russia, on 2½.

Hoax charge

Three McDonald's restaurant staff accused of making a hoax bomb call to a nearby Burger King restaurant in Newcastle upon Tyne have had a conspiracy charge against them dropped. Patima Heron, aged 24, Helen Calderwood, aged 19, and Lance Green, aged 20, all of Newcastle, still face a charge of making a hoax call.

Victim named

The parasailing instructor who fell to his death near Chigwell, Essex, when his parachute failed was named as Michael Shaw, aged 31, of Ilford, north east London.

Wild bird imports to be checked

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY AND MICHAEL HORNSBY

TWO animal welfare initiatives were announced by the government yesterday. Ministers promised to tighten controls on the much criticised import trade in wild birds and to press for improved conditions for farm animals throughout the European Community.

Neil Kinnock will next week launch an animal welfare election campaign leaflet. Labour believes that the issue is rising in prominence and could be a significant vote winner.

Tony Baldry, the junior environment minister, promised measures to regulate the bird trade as new figures showed that in 1990 21,600 parrots, cockatoos and other exotic species arrived in Britain dead or did not survive quarantine. John Gummer, the agriculture minister, promised to use the British presidency of the EC to press for improved conditions for battery hens, veal calves and pigs.

Mr Baldry said Britain would be introducing more stringent checks on wild bird imports and would press for worldwide bans whenever there were sound scientific reasons for supposing that trade was harming the survival of species. He stopped short of pressing for a ban on the trade in wild birds into the EC, which several environmental groups see as the only humane solution.

Tony Suckling, of the RSPCA, said: "We agree with 276 UK MPs and with the European Parliament that importing wild-caught birds should be banned."

Ron Davies, Labour spokesman on animal welfare, said that Labour would phase out battery hen cages, ban the import of all wild birds and campaign in Europe for an eight-hour limit on the journey time for livestock going to slaughterhouses.

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Tory challenger
Ships plea
Parliament
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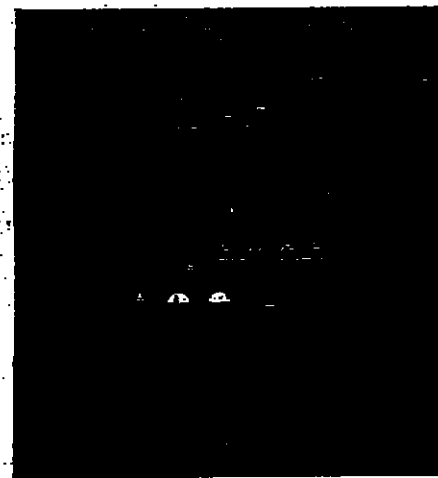
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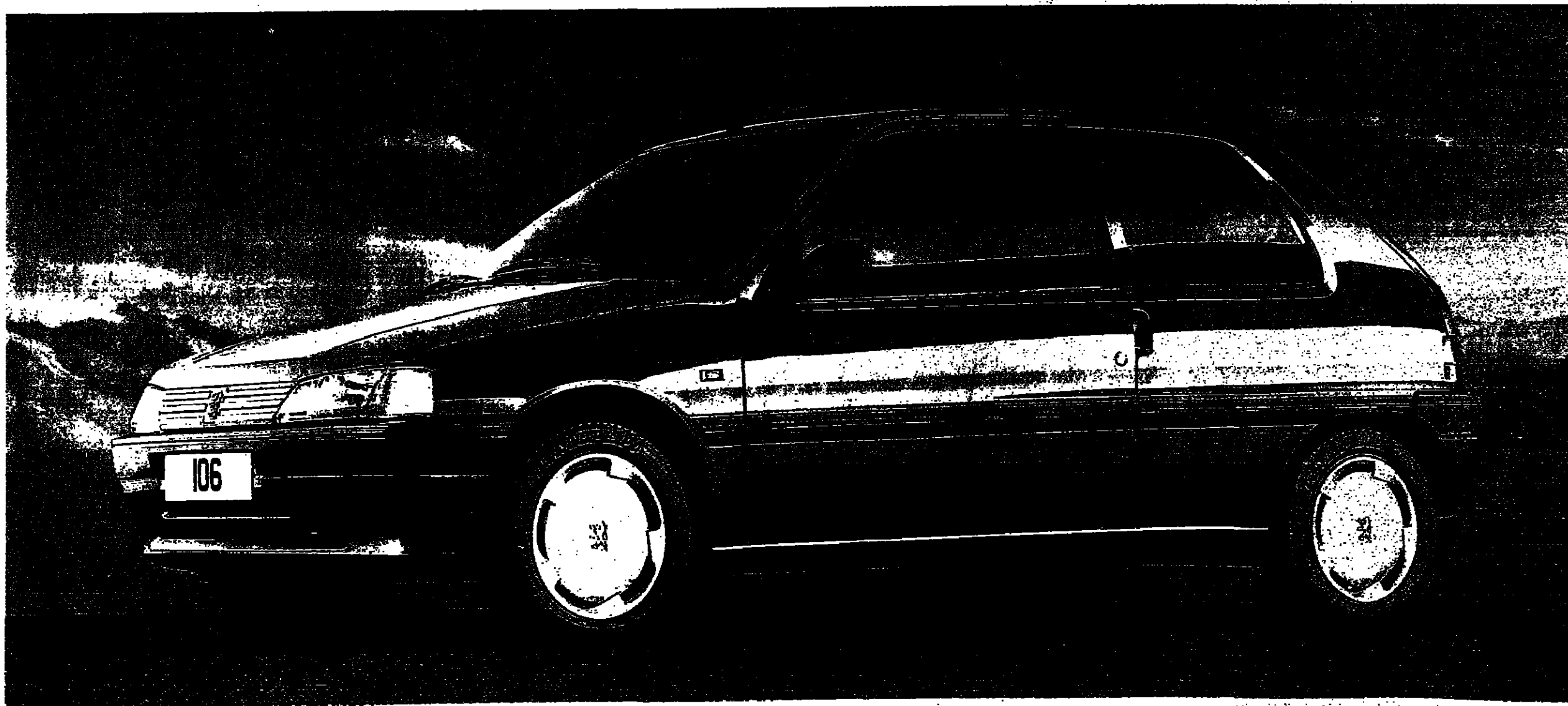
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Democratic rivals beat war drums in vital South

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

DEMOCRATIC hopes of a swift, clean race for the party's presidential nomination have been dashed by a nasty confrontation between two of the leading candidates.

Senator Bob Kerrey of Nebraska has decided to attack the character and integrity of Bill Clinton, the Arkansas governor, to prevent him winning the presidential nomination during the key Southern primaries in the next two weeks. Although Mr Clinton appears ready to respond in kind, Mr Kerrey's attacks are targeting his Achilles' heel.

Polls show that allegations

of draft-dodging and adultery have left a significant number of voters doubtful about Mr Clinton. The charges have particular resonance in the patriotic, pro-military South, where Mr Clinton needs to win if he is to unseat President Bush.

Mr Kerrey began his offensive after victory in the South Dakota primary on Tuesday gave his struggling campaign a lifeline. The man who lost half a leg and won the Medal of Honour in Vietnam flew to Mr Clinton's Georgia stronghold where, surrounded by Vietnam veterans, he resurrected the draft-dodging allegations.

Mr Kerrey tried to suggest the issue was simply electability. He said that Democrats "risked disaster" if they made Mr Clinton the nominee. The Arkansas governor would be "opened up like a soft peanut" this autumn by the Republican machine that destroyed Michael Dukakis in 1988. He, on the other hand, could take on Mr Bush, a second world war veteran, on equal terms.

Mr Kerrey also claimed that Mr Clinton's avoidance of the Vietnam draft undermined the core of his presidential platform — the need for personal responsibility. "There was an evasion of responsibility," he insisted.

The Arkansas governor issued a furious response on Wednesday night, likening Mr Kerrey to that same Republican machine. "Bob Kerrey, like George Bush, would rather play politics with patriotism than address problems here at home," he said. "That's what George Bush will do in November when he points out that Bob Kerrey opposed Operation Desert Storm [the liberation of Kuwait] and the conflict."

He pointed out that Mr Kerrey had discounted the draft issue in New Hampshire, but he was exploiting it now "for reasons that are obvious and highly political". It was "an insult to Southern voters".

Insiders say Mr Clinton believes Mr Kerrey's challenge will ultimately prove harder to ward off than that of Paul Tsongas, a leading Democrat candidate, and he is moving back into the fight for Tuesday's Colorado primary, which coincides with the Georgia primary, to stretch Mr Kerrey's limited resources. Mr Kerrey hopes to restrict the number of delegates Mr Clinton picks up in the South, and then move ahead in the big Northern primaries in states such as New York and Pennsylvania.

A Newsweek poll this week showed only 39 per cent of respondents thought Mr Clinton was honest. Exit polls showed 32 per cent of Democrats voting in South Dakota were not satisfied that he had the honesty and integrity to serve as president.

A University of Houston poll, said to parallel closely Mr Clinton's own Georgia polling, gave him strong support among committed Texas Democrats, but a 35-36 favourable-unfavourable rating when independent and Republican voters were included.

France hunts Nidal men for ship raid

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

A FRENCH judge, responsible for pursuing terrorism cases, yesterday issued international arrest warrants against four Palestinians suspected of involvement in the murder of nine people in an attack on a Greek cruise ship in July 1988.

The four are believed to have been members of the much-feared gang, directed by Abu Nidal, one is thought to have been in charge of all terrorist operations carried out in Nidal's name.

Three French citizens were among those killed when the City of Poros was attacked in the Aegean Sea off Greece, and more than 80 other French citizens were among the passengers wounded by gunfire and grenades. The only suspect believed to have been aboard at the time was Adnan Sojed. The other three, Abdel Ahmid Amoud, Mehri Mehiedin and Samir Muhammad Ahmed Khadir, were allegedly involved in the organisation and logistics of the attack.

French anti-terrorist specialists, working under Judge Jean-Louis Bruguière, believe that Mr Khadir was Nidal's right-hand man and had been responsible for mounting the City of Poros operation from Libya. According to reports here yesterday, he travels on a Libyan passport. Colonel Muammar Gaddafi's government is suspected of having provided assistance, including weaponry.

By issuing the warrants, Judge Bruguière has fulfilled the vow of the French government of the day to pursue those responsible for the attack. His action may also go some way towards reducing the damage to France's image inflicted by the recent visit to Paris of George Habbash, the leader of the radical Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, for medical treatment.

The government's handling of the Habbash affair revived anxiety over France's commitment to taking effective measures against international terrorism. Some reports suggested that the judge was disappointed by the hasty departure of the man he was eager to question in connection with other terrorist attacks that have claimed French lives.

The killings on the City of Poros were seen in certain



Nidal: members of his gang behind attack

anti-terrorist circles as reprisal by Iran for the shooting down of an Iranian civil airliner by an American naval ship in the Gulf a few days earlier. It has been suggested that Hizbollah had co-operated with Nidal to secure vengeance for the death of the 290 civilians aboard.



Truck stop: watched by Syrian troops, lorries with food for Damascus are halted by snowdrifts at the village of Bahmadoun in Lebanon

Libya accused of terror links

FROM REUTER IN WASHINGTON

LIBYA is operating at least five terrorist training camps and has made only cosmetic concessions to Western demands that it stop the programme. The Washington Post reported yesterday.

Quoting senior American officials, the newspaper said that because of the training programme the Bush administration was lobbying the United Nations to impose sanctions against Libya. These would step in place even if Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, surrendered the people suspected of carrying out the Lockerbie bombing in 1988 and the bombing of a French UTA flight over Africa in 1989, the Post said. The United States, Britain and France have demanded the suspects' extradition.

US officials claimed that Colonel Gaddafi was continuing to provide funds and training to groups such as the IRA and Philippines rebels. The Post reported that a senior State Department official said the Libyan leader had closed five large training camps identified by American intelligence last November. But "the terrorists were moved to other training facilities, ones that were not listed", the official said.

The Post quoted one US official as saying the Libyan leader had temporarily scaled down relations with guerrilla groups, in some cases asking them to leave Libya, hoping to ease Western pressure. The official added that at present the United States was hoping to work in concert with other countries to force Colonel Gaddafi's hand.

Vasily Safronchuk, the under secretary-general for UN Security Council affairs, said he had a constructive, hour-long meeting with the Libyan leader in Tripoli yesterday over demands that

Libya surrender suspects in the bombings. He said he would report to Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, who would then brief the security council.

Mr Safronchuk was sent to Libya last weekend in an apparent effort to head off a threat by the United States, Britain and France to push for sanctions on Libya because of its alleged role in the bombings. Mr Safron-

chuk met Colonel Gaddafi on Monday, then went to Geneva for consultations with the secretary-general before returning to the Libyan capital on Wednesday.

Dr Boutros Ghali also held talks in Geneva on Wednesday with a Libyan envoy identified as Colonel Yousef Dabri, the security services chief. "Everything was excellent," Dr Boutros Ghali said after the 20-minute meeting.

Palestinians and Israelis signal across the chasm

BY MARTIN FLETCHER

WHEN the Israelis presented their Palestinian self-rule plan this week, a Palestinian delegate to the Middle East peace talks said it was so preposterous that those responsible "ought to have their necks broken". The remark was a figure of speech, but one the Israelis chose to take literally. Yossi Gal, their spokesman, denounced it as "an incitement to violence".

The exchange typified the tone of the talks which resumed in Washington on Monday. They have not degenerated into public mudslinging — they began like that. But behind all the insults and accusations the fact remains that both sides are still here, still meeting, and for the first time ever the Israelis and Palestinians have given each other concrete plans for Palestinian self-rule in the occupied territories.

The philosophical chasm between the two plans is so vast it will most likely prove unbridgeable, certainly this side of the Israeli general election, but there remains what James Baker, the American Secretary of State, calls a tiny "window of opportunity". Ultimately Mr Baker may have to step in himself with Golden Gate-size bridging proposals backed by the clout of his office.

The Israeli plan essentially concedes nothing that could lead to an independent Palestinian state, while the Palestinian aim is exactly the opposite. The way Hanan Ashrawi, the Palestinian spokeswoman, put it was that "we start with the assumption we are human beings with rights, national rights and rights on the ground", while the Israelis start with the assumption that "they want to consolidate the occupation".

The Palestinian plan, called "Model of the Palestinian Interim Self-Government Authority", envisages a 180-member elected Palestinian assembly and judiciary which would take over from the Israeli army. The ten-page Israeli plan, entitled

"Ideas for Peaceful Co-existence During the Interim Period", specifies a dozen areas where Palestinians could run their own day-to-day affairs, ranging from education to transport and taxation and agriculture.

However, it gives the Palestinians no control over land, security or Jewish settlers. It makes no mention of any single Palestinian administrative body, or of elections to choose Palestinian administrators, or of an Israeli military withdrawal. Israeli officials said they had to retain control of security in the occupied territories because there were now 110,000 widely dispersed Jewish settlers compared to a concentration of about 10,000 in the late 1970s.

Leading article, page 13

Poll gives bad omen for Likud

FROM RICHARD BLESTON IN JERUSALEM

MOCK election results from a school in Ramat Gan, near Tel Aviv, yesterday underlined the predicament facing Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli prime minister. The polling among youngsters there has become something of a political tradition after votes accurately reflected the national trend ahead of Likud's general election victory in 1977.

This week, however, it was the turn of the opposition Labour party, now headed by the popular former general, Yitzhak Rabin, to sweep the classrooms, when it secured 34.5 per cent of the student vote, compared with Likud's dismal 15.6 per cent rating.

The outcome will have no bearing on the result of the general elections on June 23, but it still represents a bad omen for the ruling party.

KUWAIT NOTEBOOK by Christopher Walker

Kind words for Bosh and Thatcher

Whatever the voters of New Hampshire may feel, President Bush (commonly spelt "Bosh") remains the most popular man in Kuwait, with a main street named after him and fulsome praise expressed in those graffiti that have not yet been removed.

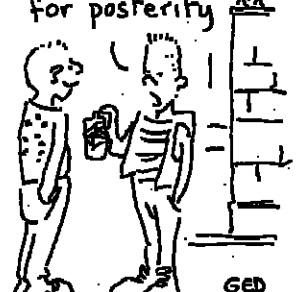
Perhaps conscious of the ephemeral nature of such popularity, the United States embassy has gone to extraordinary lengths to ensure that a reminder of it will remain even as the memories of the heady days of February 1991 begin to fade. Painters whitewashing the walls of the seafront compound were ordered to preserve one sprayed painted message of the many inscribed after liberation.

As a result, a huge wooden-and-glass frame some 15 feet long has been placed over the declaration stating in red lettering: "Thanks for Bosh and America for people." European diplomats, jealous at what they

regard as over-close Kuwaiti and US collusion over the handout of postwar contracts, questioned cynically whether this unique example of embassy decor will remain after November.

Almost as popular is Mrs Thatcher — one roundabout

Let's bosh up a few walls for posterity



still carries the improbably spelt message, "Thank U Thatcher" with most Kuwaitis expressing amazement at her removal from power.

For those intent on read-

ing political significance into the wartime graffiti, all does not bode well for the Tories, despite the fact that it is impossible to find a Kuwaiti who has even heard of Neil Kinnock. Among the various endearments to missed loved ones and ruderies aimed at Saddam scrawled by allied troops on the hundreds of wrecked vehicles still littering the desert at the Mitha ridge, one prominent message sticks out incongruously from the rusting detritus of the war: "F... the poll tax."

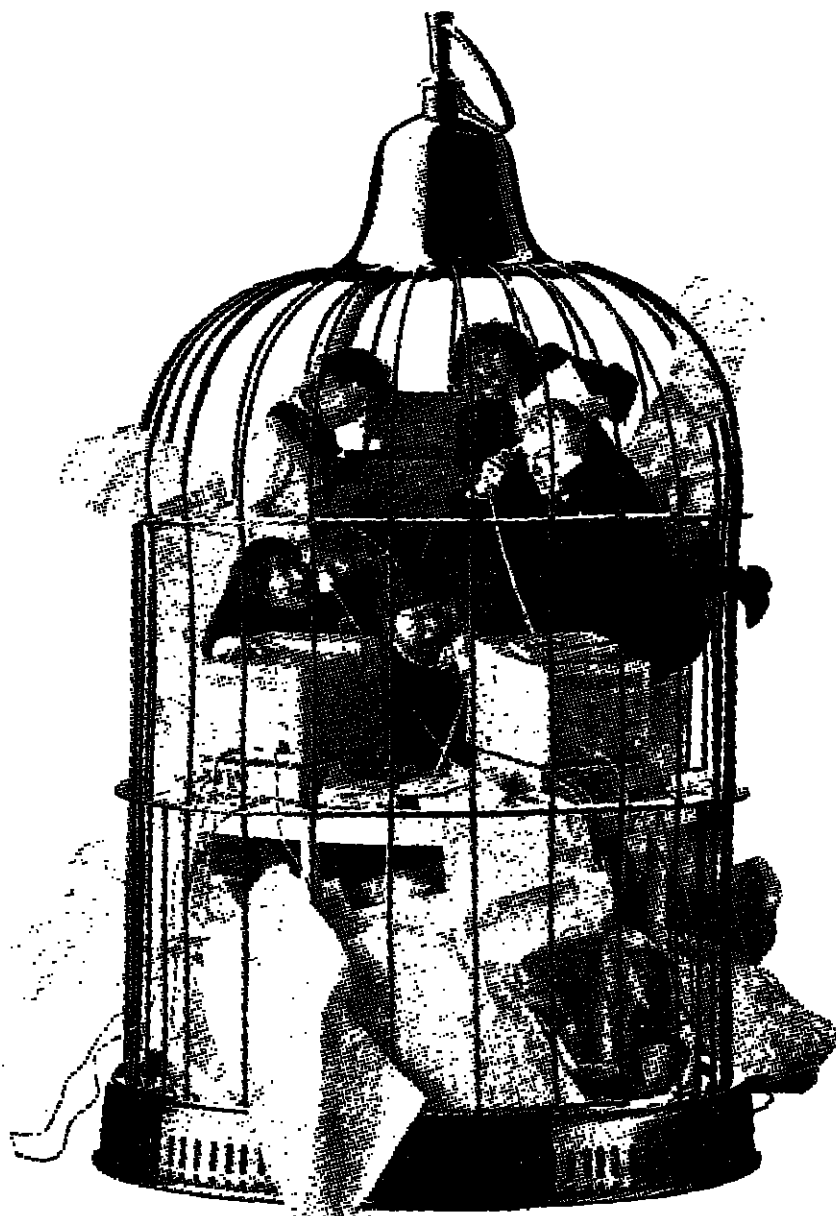
Saudi Arabia has made no accommodation with Western influence imported during the Gulf war and continues to discriminate against the women who organised a protest by driving their own cars, but Kuwait has moved in the opposite direction. This month the traffic department forbade all women wearing the full Muslim veil from driving while the grow-

ing number sporting fashionable Western-style dress remain free to do so.

Politicking here takes place in a traditionally all-male institution, the Diwaniya, the equivalent of a salon which is held nightly over endless cups of sweet tea in the homes of the rich and well connected. Undeterred by custom, one of these weekly gatherings has now been thrown open to both sexes.

The mired Diwaniya is hosted by one of the most remarkable women in the emirate, Sheikhah Doctura Rasha Al-Hamad Al-Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, first cousin of the emir, a 41-year-old academic who is now one of the most vocal campaigners for women's rights. Dr Rasha, as she is known, hosted Mrs Thatcher to her Diwaniya, where the former prime minister tried to discourage the men present from dominating the debate.

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Moscow sheds light on mystery of missing US spy planes



Powers: possibly one of several shot down

THE Russian ministry of state security, founded on the remains of the old KGB, has given details of two occasions on which Soviet planes shot down American spy planes, both predating the notorious U2 incident in 1960.

When the U2 plane was shot down and its pilot, Gary Powers, taken prisoner, the Soviet leadership insisted that this was just one of many such incidents, but no details were made public. At a press conference held yesterday to introduce the new-look Russian Federation security service, General Aleksandr Gurov said that the earlier incidents had taken place in 1956 and 1958 respectively, and both

Russia has opened its secret files to reveal facts about other incidents before the 1960 shooting down of a U2 plane, Mary Dejevsky writes from Moscow

involved planes entering the then Soviet republic of Armenia from Turkey.

General Gurov accused America of refusing to release information that would identify the servicemen involved. He said that in the 1956 incident, which took place on June 27, five airmen had parachuted to safety and been held in Armenia. He said they were subsequently handed back to the Ameri-

cans. The second incident was said to have taken place on September 4, 1958, when a military aircraft entered Armenia from Turkey.

The general said that an American investigator working for families of American missing persons, whom he named as Mark Salter, had been informed by the Pentagon that the documents relating to such cases were still classified. A document had

been supplied, he said, but with the names erased. Even if names had been given, General Gurov said that the airmen were likely to have been flying incognito. None of the names in the Russian records, he said, matched those listed by Mr Salter as missing.

The Russian ministry said it would propose the formation of a commission comprising American and Russian defence ministry officials, as well as security officials from both sides, to investigate such cases. The press conference also dealt with such hitherto uncomfortable topics for the KGB as telephone-tapping and bans

on the entry into the country of foreigners and former Soviet citizens.

Igor Zinchenko, from the counter-espionage service, said that a total of 5,378 people were still refused entry to the country, by far the greatest number of them suspected terrorists. Three further categories of banned individuals comprised known criminals and spies, suspected narcotics traders and smugglers, and those infected with the Aids virus.

He said that a fifth reason for refusing entry — the ideological views of the applicant — had been abolished last December. Any problems experienced by former dis-

sentis and others after then, he said, were the responsibility of the Russian foreign ministry's consular department. He admitted continuing delays and quoted poor communications, shortage of money and reorganisation in the foreign ministry as source of the problems.

● Moscow: A spokesman for the northern fleet of the former Soviet navy claimed yesterday that the American submarine which collided with a Russian submarine two weeks ago in the Barents Sea was at least five nautical miles inside Russian territorial waters and within a Russian naval training area. In an interview with the Tass

news agency, Captain Aleksandr Veledeyev said that such incidents had been an almost annual occurrence between 1967 and 1986, but that this was the first registered case since then.

He said that the American submarine had successfully used a combination of the acoustic peculiarities of the Barents Sea and the proximity of a Russian trawler to conceal its presence from the Russian submarine. He cited Russian specialists as saying that the American captain had acted dangerously. The northern fleet, the spokesman stressed, had no nuclear submarines in any proximity to the US coast at present.

Iranian efforts fail to stop fighting in Nagorno-Karabakh

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

THE bloody conflict in the trans-Caucasus between Armenia and Azerbaijan defied the latest mediation effort yesterday, when a three-day ceasefire brokered by Ali Akbar Velayati, the Iranian foreign minister, collapsed within hours of coming into force. Each side blamed the other for renewing the violence and gave warnings of all-out war.

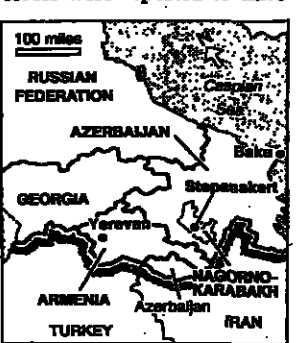
Dr Velayati was initially reported to have left Baku, the Azerbaijani capital, for the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, the predominantly Armenian enclave, but his whereabouts were uncertain last night. Dr Velayati came to the region on Tuesday to pursue the first outside attempt to mediate in the four-year old conflict.

Yesterday, Armenian and Russian reports blamed Azerbaijan for the failure of the latest ceasefire, accusing Azerbaijani forces, armed with tanks, combat helicopters and Grad missiles, of launching a new offensive from Agdam, to the northeast of the territory. The reports said Azerbaijani forces had penetrated three miles into the territory and that people in the town of Askyaran, on the main route to Stepanakert, the capital of Nagorno-Karabakh, had been killed and wounded.

Azerbaijan, for its part, accused Armenians from Askyaran of opening fire on villages in the Agdam region. Armenia said that this was

return fire. Each side accused troops from the former Soviet armed forces, now the forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States, of fighting on the other side.

Yesterday's ceasefire came into force at 9am and, unlike a ceasefire announced 24 hours before, initially appeared to hold. It followed a battle for the Azerbaijani-populated town of Khojaly on Wednesday, when Armenian forces were reported to have



ejected Azerbaijani forces after intense fighting. Azerbaijan denied that the town had fallen to Armenia, but reported almost 100 dead and 250 wounded. Armenia put the toll much lower.

During Wednesday night, Azerbaijani forces were reported to have bombarded Stepanakert, an Armenian town from nearby Shusha, their last remaining stronghold in the enclave. On Russian television, civilians were shown fleeing the city, leaving blocks

of flats and houses in flames. The Iranian mediation effort followed a failed mediation attempt by President Yeltsin last month and is believed to reflect a dual strategy by Iran. On the one hand it fears the spread of the conflict to its own Azerbaijani population; on the other, it appears to be competing, especially with Turkey, for influence in the former Soviet republics. Armenia, although Christian, is supporting the Iranian effort, while expressing concern that the Armenian side should be heard fairly. Dr Velayati is expected to visit Yerevan, the Armenian capital, after he has been to Nagorno-Karabakh.

Earlier attempts by Mikhail Gorbachev and, in September, by the Russian and Kazakhstani leaders to bring peace to the disputed region have all failed. Any ceasefire is complicated by the fact that most of the fighting is being done by irregular troops. Many are volunteers, others fugitives from the former Soviet armed forces. According to the Moscow military paper, *Krasnaya Zvezda*, large groups of Armenians and Azerbaijani soldiers stationed in the region transferred their allegiance to their home republic after Moscow withdrew its interior ministry forces early this year.

Armed forces spokesmen in Moscow deny that any commonwealth units are supporting either side, but concede that frustration among officers in Stepanakert is reaching a dangerous level. On Monday, troops stationed in the city were authorised to return fire, after attacks and casualties became more frequent. At least three Russian soldiers have been killed in the recent upsurge in violence.

President Ter-Petrosian of Armenia has sent a message to leaders of 14 countries, including the United States, appealing to them to persuade Azerbaijan not to form a national army or take any action which could break the "fragile balance of forces in the region". He also asked commonwealth leaders to prevent Azerbaijan from seizing weapons belonging to the commonwealth armed forces. Union meeting: Parliamentary chairmen or their deputies from ten states of the commonwealth met in Moscow yesterday in an attempt to form an inter-parliamentary union, intended to standardise parliamentary and legislative practice across the commonwealth. Uzbekistan had said it would not attend.



Flight to safety: an Azerbaijani villager flees with his child from Kocali, in Nagorno Karabakh yesterday during an Armenian attack

Britain lines up EC allies to curb big-spending Delors

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

A MAJORITY of European governments, led by Britain, have come out against a huge increase in EC spending during the 1990s suggested by Jacques Delors, the European commission's president, earlier this month.

First soundings taken among the 12 governments this week found that the EC's eight richest states are all cool towards M. Delors's plan to boost the E3 billion annual Brussels budget by 30 per cent between now and 1997. The attack will be continued by Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, when foreign ministers hold their first discussion of M. Delors's proposals here next Monday.

"The British attacked the figures and they did it very effectively," one EC diplomat said, describing this week's

regular meeting of EC ambassadors. British officials yesterday confirmed that, if the Delors proposals were passed intact, Britain's contribution to the annual EC budget would rise by around £1 billion. That assumes the British "rebate", negotiated amid much uproar by Mrs Thatcher in 1984, continues.

The Commission is due to report to the Lisbon summit in June on Britain's unique discount, and the British government will insist on keeping the rebate. "There will be no settlement of this review without the continuation of the British rebate," one official said.

The present budget negotiations differ sharply from the last round of arguments about Europe's money, which began in 1987. Those de-

bates took place against the background of a booming international economy and looming troubles inside the EC, which was running out of money. Europe's governments are now facing a deeper than expected recession. Germany, the largest contributor to the EC budget, is devoting massive resources to rescuing what used to be East Germany. The Bonn government disapproves of the Delors plan, and the opposition Social Democrats said this week that Germany should not increase its payments to Brussels.

British officials also note that the Community has money to spare in the present budget. They estimate that the EC's 1993 budget could be organised without a new financing agreement.

Milosevic says war is over

FROM TIM JUDAH AND DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE

SLOBODAN Milosevic, the Serbian president, yesterday hailed the planned deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping force in Yugoslavia as a "great success for Serbian policy".

In his first speech to parliament since the beginning of the conflict, he said that the decision to send a 14,000-strong UN force marked the end of the war and was a vindication of Serbia's policies. He said: "Most of the agony is over and the conditions now exist for a peaceful democratic solution of the crisis."

Mr Milosevic was speaking the day after it was confirmed that Serbia would return to the European Community-sponsored peace conference which broke down last November. The conference collapsed after Serbia refused to endorse an EC plan for the transformation of the six Yugoslav republics into a loose association of sovereign states.

Mr Milosevic stoutly defended his refusal to agree to the EC plan yesterday. He said that had he done so it would have left the three Serbian enclaves, known as the Krajinas, "at the mercy of the Croats and under Croatian authority". He said that the decision of the UN Security Council to send troops confirmed this approach and meant "the end of violence and terror for Serbs in the Krajinas".

The Serbian president was strongly attacked by Zoran Horovan, the leader of the main opposition party, who said Mr Milosevic was responsible for "thousands of young Serbian graves". He claimed that the republic had been humiliated, the economy destroyed and that "hunger was knocking on the door".

Nato to transfer weapons

BY MICHAEL EVANS DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

NATO is about to begin a free-for-all transfer of thousands of tanks, artillery and armoured personnel carriers from the best equipped alliance armies to the poorest members. All the armour is guaranteed to be "in good running and shooting order".

The transfer programme, allowed under the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) Treaty, was initially called "cascading" when the idea first arose about two years ago. Now it is officially called "harmonisation".

Under the treaty, thousands of pieces of heavy armour will have to be destroyed to meet the new ceilings on conventional arms in Europe. Nato, however, wants to ensure that only the oldest equipment is scrapped. With some adroit redistribution, countries like Turkey and Greece, armed with some of the oldest tanks in the alliance, will receive newer models from the stocks of better-off alliance members, while their ageing models are destroyed.

Nato sources said yesterday that all the negotiations between the alliance members had now been completed and harmonisation would begin in a few weeks. Nato funds will pay for the shipment of the armour but most of the "receiving countries" will get their newer models free.

The beneficiaries of harmonisation will be Turkey, Greece, and to a lesser extent, Spain, Portugal, Denmark and Norway. A total of 4,000 pieces of equipment will be swapped around, 2,800 from America. The other "donating countries" are Germany, Italy and The Netherlands. Britain is not involved. Officials at supreme headquarters allied powers Europe (SHAPE) at Mons in Belgium said the cost of transferring the equipment would be £57 million.

Protests mar new pact of friendship

FROM GERARD DAVIES IN PRAGUE

MORE than 2,000 angry protesters greeted the German and Czechoslovak heads of state, crying "Shame on you" and "Traitors". They gave the Nazi salute to shouts of "Hail Havel" as the two men gathered here in a controversial attempt to correct the wrongs of the second world war.

The new treaty of friendship, signed by Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, and President Havel, has aroused bitterness on both sides. The treaty is an attempt to make up for the Nazi invasion, and the post-war expulsion of Germans from the Sudetenland in Czechoslovakia.

Herr Kohl said that it was

impossible to completely nullify the Munich Agreement because of the legal difficulty regarding the citizenship of Sudeten Germans. The chancellor said: "I hope this agreement will form a contribution to bilateral understanding and that those of my compatriots, who were expelled after the war from their homeland in today's Czechoslovakia, will contribute to a reconciliation."

Mr Havel said: "There are many question marks on this treaty but I am convinced that within a few months they will play no role at all. Every European, including the Sudeten, will have the opportunity to invest or to live in this country."

Sudeten exiles left in the lurch

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

FRAU Gerte Werner is just one of three million exiled Sudeten Germans who is not impressed by the fact that Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, flew to Prague yesterday to sign a good



neighbour and friendship treaty with Czechoslovakia. The new treaty took months to negotiate and is designed to overcome the legacy of mistrust created by

the Munich Agreement of 1938. It cancels the 1938 decision to hand the Sudetenland to Germany and condemns the fact that three million Sudeten Germans were expelled after the war. But because Germany regards the confiscation of exiles' property as illegal, there is no mention of who owns what in Czechoslovakia.

Equally, there is no mention of compensation for what the Nazis did to the Czechs. In both countries this is causing controversy.

Mr Havel originally offered to allow the Sudeten Germans back on condition that Germany agreed to accept that the entire Munich Agreement was invalid. The chancellor refused to accept that condition because, it would mean that Sudeten

Germans would lose the right to German citizenship granted them at Munich.

Frau Werner remembers how happy she was when, aged 20, she became German. She hated having to learn Czech at school and, like many of her friends, took to wearing white stockings as a sign that she was German. When the Sudetenland was ceded to Germany, she and her friends were excited.

Widowed, she now lives comfortably in Cologne. The German government has paid her 1,200 marks (£410) compensation for the furniture she had to leave in her flat in Prague and 20,000 marks for the confiscated family home.

Pavarotti may enter electoral stage

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

A private luncheon Bettino Craxi gave for Luciano Pavarotti yesterday has led to speculation the former prime minister is planning a *colpo di teatro* for Italy's election campaign by persuading the tenor to perform as a socialist candidate.

Signor Craxi first hinted at the unusual meal on Wednesday by saying: "We are occupying ourselves with pre-electoral cooking. We have to finish the lists and we are late. But I have to go to Modena to meet a friend." After eating with the socialist leader near his home in Modena yesterday, the opera star proclaimed: "I'm not a politician, only a musician." But he added: "I can put my voice in the service of any cause and I am happy to do so, especially if I am an admirer of persons such as Craxi."

Political parties along the peninsula are wooing "Candidate Excellent" as the April 5 contest draws near. The neo-fascist Italian Social Movement has led the way by recruiting Alessandra Mussolini, who is the granddaughter of the dictator and whose looks also recall her aunt, Sophia Loren.

Signor Craxi does not intend to be outdone. Pavarotti is a candidate for a series of great international successes in the lyrical field in which he is a maestro. Signor Craxi told reporters:

But Signor Craxi said the role of opera in uniting Italy in the tradition of Verdi should not be underestimated at a time when regional "leagues" are threatening to break up the country. "Pavarotti is not only a great lyric talent but a great ambassador of Italy and I am reflecting on the fact that the lyrical message helps to bolster consciousness of the national identity. It is a heritage common to all Italians, a value that unites the Italians and in these times, this is necessary given the facts of separation and disintegration." The flower in the buttonhole of an electoral list was how *La Repubblica* saw a role for Pavarotti.



Pavarotti: ardent admirer of Craxi

Russia tells IMF of route to reform

Moscow: The Russian government yesterday approved a memorandum detailing how it intended to comply with conditions for membership of the International Monetary Fund. Measures announced include the relaxation of most remaining price controls and internal convertibility of the rouble. Introducing the document, Aleksandr Ulyukayev, a senior government adviser, said that the memorandum amounted to a written programme for Russia's economic reform.

The programme envisages the gradual removal of state subsidies from prices of raw materials, including coal and oil, and the reduction of Russia's monthly inflation rate to between 2 and 3 per cent by the end of the year. Most raw materials were exempted from the liberalisation of prices introduced on January 2, but producers have clamoured for an increase under pressure from their workforce to raise wages.

IMF officials have said that Western backing for the rouble would be sending good money after bad unless the currency was able to show a convincing recovery, and Russian officials admitted yesterday that they had no grounds for believing that the IMF had changed its mind.

At present, the rouble is showing an unexpected recovery against the dollar, although opinions differ as to whether the recovery is real or engineered.

Army moves in
Tirane: Troops moved in to restore order in the Albanian town of Pogradec after two people died and 36 police and security men were injured in an orgy of looting and lawlessness, a city council official said. (Reuters)

Spies sacked

Amsterdam: The Netherlands has closed its foreign intelligence service because of allegations of fraud and dictatorial practices, losing it the respect of the espionage world, Rued Lubbers, the prime minister, said.

Peking visit

Peking: General Viktor Samsonov, the chief of staff of the armed forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States, has arrived in Peking as the first high-level military visitor since the dismantling of the Soviet Union.

Cholera talks

Buenos Aires: The health ministers of ten South American countries are meeting here for two days of talks to discuss an unprecedented joint initiative to combat the cholera epidemic which is sweeping the region.

Bomb claim

Athens: Two left-wing Greek urban guerrilla organisations, the May 1 and Revolutionary Popular Struggle groups, jointly claimed responsibility for Wednesday's bomb blast that wounded 18 policemen. (Reuters)

Guerrilla strike

Manila: Communist guerrillas killed a police commander, an aide and 10 government employees in southern Philippines, police said. The killings followed an ambush on February 16 in which 41 soldiers were killed. (Reuters)

Piracy curbs

Kuala Lumpur: Shipowners plan to set up an anti-piracy centre in Malaysia to curb piracy in South-East Asia, the international maritime bureau said. Nearly 150 pirate attacks were reported in the region last year. (Reuters)

Army tightens its grip on Tigers' Jaffna stronghold

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN VAVUNIYA

SRI Lanka's armed forces have encircled the rebel-held Jaffna peninsula, imposing a stranglehold that is unprecedented in the nine years of civil war. From food to candles and petrol, almost nothing gets through without military approval.

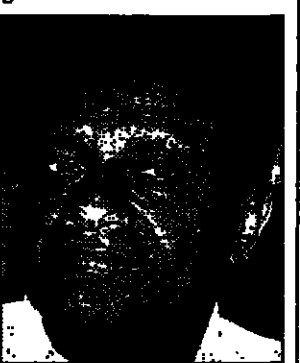
Thousands of people leave the peninsula every day by foot and bicycle for the government-controlled market town of Vavuniya, where they buy whatever the army lets them take back. The process

reveals the desperation of people on the edge of survival. Even this meagre supply route was broken this week by almost continuous curfews. From the last military checkpoint north of Vavuniya, beyond which the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam are in control, the sound of nearby explosions and gunfire confirmed that the military was tightening the ring. The military bans scores of items from Jaffna, including batteries, new bicycles, candles, most fertilisers and pesticides, bicycle spares, torches, engine parts and a large range of medicines — anything that might help the Tigers.

Never has the army been in such a commanding position. It is confident that it could take Jaffna town at any time, albeit with heavy casualties. The 800,000 residents of the peninsula fear such an assault because many would die. The government of President Premadasa is uncertain whether to order the town to be taken, however, because it would expose thousands of troops to guerrilla attacks, from jungle hideouts. High civilian casualties could provoke a human rights outcry.

Some senior army officers give the impression of being frustrated by the indecision at a time when they have never been so strong. The uncertainty is adding to the wrenching of life in the peninsula. There has been no electricity for two years; nutritional food is in short supply; the few hospitals need more drugs and equipment; there is no industry; tens of thousands of homeless people live in camps, churches and school buildings; there are no transport or telephone services. The war has cost 17,000 lives and destroyed tens of thousands of homes. Reconstruction could cost £290 million.

Control of the supply routes gives the government an important psychological advantage. There is evidence of rising antipathy towards the Tigers, born out of desperation for peace. But the rebels maintain ruthless control through a formidable intelligence network.



Premadasa: undecided about seizing town

Officers punished in Timor

FROM MOSES MANOHARAN IN JAKARTA

THE Indonesian army said yesterday that it had punished six senior officers for last November's mass killing of civilians in East Timor, in what diplomats said was an attempt to calm international outrage.

General Edi Sudrajat, the army chief, said three of the six had been dismissed, two were taken off active duty and another had been temporarily suspended. Eight other soldiers of lower rank would be court-martialled, he said.

Soldiers fired into a crowd of mourners in the East Timor capital of Dili on November 12. Witnesses say at least 100 people were killed while an official enquiry put the number at 50.

The punishments were the most severe meted out to the powerful military since it brought President Suharto to power 26 years ago. "We have learnt a big lesson," a solemn General Sudrajat told reporters as he announced the findings of a special military council investigating the killings. He said the punishments were part of steps to correct indiscipline.

But he also came out strongly against a softer line taken in East Timor since 1989 to handle separatist sentiment. General Sudrajat said that this had given the rebels a chance to embarrass Indonesia.

A small band of pro-independence guerrillas continues to harass the military in East Timor, a former Portuguese colony which Indonesia invaded in 1975. Its role there is not internationally recognised. General Sudrajat's view underlined a hardline approach to East Timor, closed to journalists on Wednesday before the approach of a Portuguese vessel carrying protesters. (Reuters)

Policeman tells of plot against ANC

FROM GAVIN BELL IN JOHANNESBURG

AN officer of the South African police has admitted ordering black constables to kill African National Congress sympathisers, as part of a covert strategy to support the rival Inkatha Freedom party.

The testimony yesterday of Captain Brian Mitchell, aged 34, before the Supreme Court in Pietermaritzburg, north-west of Durban, was evidence of active police involvement in political violence ravaging black communities.

The court has heard that the attack ordered by Captain Mitchell went wrong. Instead of targeting the home of an ANC sympathiser, the constables shot mourners attending a funeral vigil at another house, most of whom were Inkatha supporters. Women and children were among the 11 killed and eight injured.

Captain Mitchell, two other white officers, and four black constables are charged with murder and attempted murder in connection with the incident at the Trust Feed community in Natal on December 3, 1988. The three white officers deny participating in the attack; the constables admit taking part, but say they were acting on orders they considered lawful.

found out who had been killed, he was shocked.

Captain Mitchell said he saw himself as a soldier fighting in a civil war. He sympathised with Inkatha because they never made areas ungovernable.

Captain Mitchell said he perceived Jerome Gabela, a local Inkatha leader, to be weak, and towards the end of November 1988 it was clear the UDF was "getting the upper hand" in Trust Feed. He expressed his concerns to Captain Deon Terblanche, then head of the riot police in Pietermaritzburg, who said he would take up the matter with Inkatha leaders.

On November 30, the two officers accompanied Mr Gabela and other Inkatha members to a meeting with David Ntombela, an Inkatha warlord. Captain Terblanche told him that riot squad members were helping Inkatha to secure their own areas and take over UDF ones.

On the day of the attack, Captain Mitchell spent time drinking beer and vodka with colleagues. That night they picked up the constables and ordered them "to attack the UDF". After gunfire, one constable reported they had killed people. Captain Mitchell noted that the home of a UDF sympathiser, the intended target, was not on fire and he instructed the man to set it alight.



Hand in hand: Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of Cambodia's Supreme National Council, greeting Khieu Samphan, the Khmer Rouge leader, yesterday in Pailin while touring rebel areas in Cambodia

Lange unrepentant over sword's sale

David Lange, New Zealand's former prime minister, is unrepentant over the sale of a ceremonial sword given to him in 1985 by the Emir of Bahrain while he was in office. The *Dominion* newspaper reported that Mr Lange sold the sword at an auction last year, receiving \$50 New Zealand dollars (£170). The buyer said he valued it at £14,000.

Mr Lange was emphatic the sword was a personal gift from the emir, not a gift to the state. "I've got no qualms about it," he said. "There was no fuss about it and no insult intended." Mr Lange's new wife, Margaret Pope, decided to sell the sword. "It's evil and ugly and I wouldn't have it in the house," she said.

Unaccompanied teenagers will be banned from next week's concert by American singer Paula Abdul in South Korea, where a girl died and dozens were injured at a New Kids On the Block concert last week, when frenzied teenagers stormed the stage.

Ringo Starr says he will have a new album in May and will follow that with a summer tour featuring fellow-rockers Joe Walsh, Nils Lofgren, Dave Edmunds, Todd Rundgren and others.

La Cicciolina, the Italian porn star and MP, has

changed her mind and will stand in the April general elections, even though this may lead to her divorce. Her husband, New York artist Jeff Koons, reportedly banned his wife from attending parliament after their marriage and has threatened divorce if she stands again.

Former *Minder* star Dennis Waterman's 16-year old daughter, Hannah, has won her way through to the national finals of a Shakespeare recital competition. Hannah first won the preliminary round at St Felix school in Repton, Suffolk, by reciting a passionate passage from *Henry VIII*.

The biographer Kitty Kelley is to address the Oxford Union next month to discuss the motion "This house would keep its skeletons in the cupboard." Ms Kelley, whose candid books about Elizabeth Taylor, Nancy Reagan and Frank Sinatra outraged the stars, will be opposed by the television presenters Nicholas Parsons and Judith Hann.

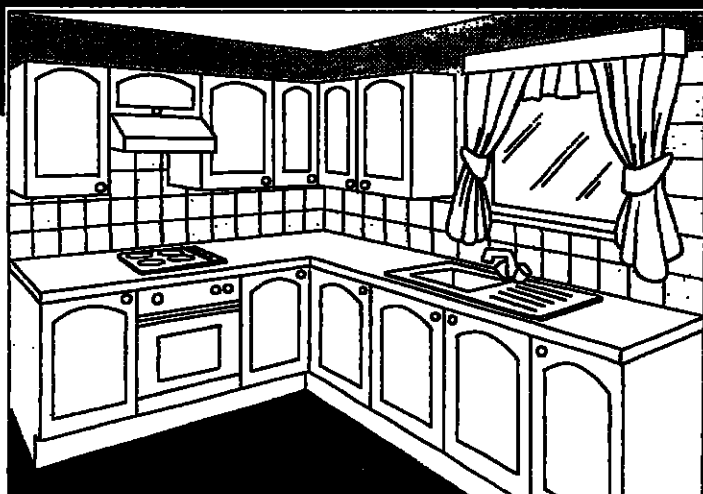
Actress Glenda Jackson called off a visit to the London Drama Centre in Chalk Farm yesterday to be with her injured son, Daniel Hodges, aged 22, lost an eye in an incident in a public house on Monday.

HOW TO PAY AN EXTRA £243.50 FOR A KITCHEN

(BUY IT FROM THIS COMPETITOR OF OURS)

B&Q Banquet RIALTO

In the Rialto kitchen B&Q offer you a range of elegantly styled units with a white woodgrain finish softened by a gentle grey outline. The effect is complemented by sculptured door fronts with matching ceramic handles.



TEXAS Wrighton ZURICH

The Wrighton Zurich units are very similar to the Rialto's, same white finish with grey stripe outline and identical handles. In fact they're made by the same manufacturer. The only difference is detail design on the doors and drawer fronts — and, of course, the price.

Despite the gimmicks being used to sell kitchens at the moment, it's the price you pay **now** that counts. Take this stylish white kitchen. The B&Q version is called the Rialto and costs £690.38. The Texas version is called the Zurich and costs £933.88. Both kitchens are very similar, made to the same standard by the same manufacturer, yet Texas ask you for £243.50 more. And if a 25% saving isn't enough to convince you, we're offering you interest free credit until 16th March as well.

(*Subject to status 10% deposit required)

B&Q PRICE

FOR ALL 12 UNITS SHOWN IN THE PICTURE ABOVE
Price based on buying 3 units or more in one transaction.

£690.38

WITH INTEREST FREE CREDIT*

TEXAS PRICE

FOR ALL 12 UNITS SHOWN IN THE PICTURE ABOVE
Price based on buying 3 units or more in one transaction.

£933.88

*Some prices checked on Thursday 27/2/92 at B&Q Home Centres, Chesham Avenue, Eastleigh. B&Q prices apply to all stores. Show prices are approximate. All prices include VAT. This kitchen may not be displayed in all B&Q stores but can be ordered from any B&Q. Please allow 3 weeks for delivery. Offer applied to self-catering doors and/or kitchen units only and only when any combination of 3 or more individual units are purchased in one transaction. Offer excludes accessories, taps and sinks, machinery, white goods, paintwork, plaster, panels, cornices, worktops, skirting, steps and appliances.

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How to hide a tax

Tony Travers on a ruse to delay poll tax bills

A new local government year is dawning: 40 million brown envelopes have been bought; franking machines are being oiled; computers are being programmed. Soon 40 million new poll-tax bills will be printed and posted. Their arrival on doormats will remind every voter in mainland Britain that one of the major parties seeking to win support at the election was responsible for thinking up, forcing through and — for a while at least — toughing out the mess that was (and still is) the poll tax.

Put even more bluntly, most adults will receive an election address from each candidate, plus — perhaps in the same post — an official reminder about the most ghastly policy disaster of modern times. Worse, the 1992 bills will on average have risen by three or four times the current rate of inflation. Bryan Gould will have a field day.

The above is a distinctly gloom projection (for the Conservatives, anyway) of what will happen in the next few weeks. Last March, the Chancellor, Norman Lamont, used £4.5 billion worth of Value Added Tax to reduce the political potency of the community charge. Despite odd rumours about poll-tax arrears and the inadmissibility of computer-generated evidence, chopping the 1991 local tax bills was sufficient to stifle their influence on the opinion polls.

If all goes well for Mr Major, the bills which are now being set for 1992 will pass without further damage to the Tories. The massive switch of local tax from local to central government will prove to have had a lasting impact on the capacity of the poll tax to damage the government's popularity. Average bills will settle at around £280, which is up only about £30 on this year. Moreover, Michael Heseltine will use his considerable rhetorical skills to lay the blame for high community charge bills, especially the ominously-named "other adjustments" for non-collection, at the foot of opposition councils.

Who knows which of these views of the immediate future is correct? With poll tax now raising an amount equivalent to about 1½ per cent of the gross domestic product (all other taxes, such as income tax and VAT, add up to more than 35 per cent), there must be a fair chance that the government really has, with our money, bought its way out of the community charge maze. But still a nagging doubt must remain. What if things continue to run along with the two parties neck-and-neck? Poll-tax bills begin to arrive in the middle of March, just as the election campaign is starting. Suddenly either increases in bills (which look likely to be biggest in a number of Tory councils with marginal parliamentary seats) or perhaps, the reminder of past hostility has a decisive effect on the electorate. By that time, it will be too late to act to undo the damage.

So the question now facing the cabinet is whether or not to act to cut poll-tax bills again, just as they were reduced last March. A 10 per cent (£30 per adult) slice off every poll tax would cost the Exchequer about £1 billion, less than half the expense of 1p off basic rate income tax. Moreover, in addition to the potentially beneficial electoral effect of such a cut, the actual process of sending out bills could be held up until after an April (or possibly even a May) election. Other as yet unimagined ruses to delay bills cannot be ruled out.

If the government took such a step, Bryan Gould would argue that a grand act of political skulduggery had been perpetrated. The resulting political conundrum would then be whether Labour would win more votes by accusing the government of unfair practice, than the Conservatives would save by delaying the bills.

Such questions cannot yet be answered, but the risks to the government of allowing community charge bills to arrive during March and April are there for all to see. As the prime minister and his Chancellor weigh up the possible uses to which their spare cash may be put, throwing a bit more at the poll-tax bill (as Mr Major might put it) may be a most attractive option. Leaving things alone and merely letting the bills thud onto doormats would be like the Russian roulette player putting a gun to his head and pulling the trigger: brave, but possibly fatal.

The author is a research director at the London School of Economics.

Mrs Thatcher and Ronald Reagan cast a shadow over their successors, says Peter Riddell

Major's poisoned legacy

A WEEK IN POLITICS

John Major likes to talk electoral politics with other heads of government, one professional to another. But his phone calls to George Bush must have an air of mutual commiseration. In both Britain and America the economic cycle is not synchronised with the political cycle. Not only do both leaders face tight elections, they are both still trying to escape their predecessors' shadows.

Nothing is more uncomfortable in politics than to take over from a highly successful leader who caught the mood of an age. Heirs apparent seldom succeed. The Tories' long dominance under Lord Salisbury soon unravelled under Balfour. Neville Chamberlain proved an unworthy successor to Baldwin, and Eden's long apprenticeship under Churchill was followed by brief and total failure.

Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan embodied the spirit of the 1980s, though at times more in myth than achievement. They were the crusaders who led the counter-revolution against collectivism and communism. In the past week, mutterings have surfaced that the former leaders disapprove of the actions of their successors. Allies of Mrs Thatcher report her dismay at

the government's plans to raise public spending and borrowing, at its cuts in the defence budget and its caution in helping the former Soviet republics. Mr Reagan is said to have told friends that Mr Bush faced reelection difficulties because he "doesn't seem to stand for anything". In both cases, stories about disloyal remarks were predictably denied. Mrs Thatcher is keen not to be seen to be rocking the boat before the election, and she will be out of the country for the eight days up to April 9. But a sense that the true faith is being undermined still persists.

Yet the complaints of the Thatcherites and Reaganites are misplaced. The difficulties faced by Mr Major and Mr Bush are largely the result of their predecessors' excesses. They are paying for the sins of the father and the mother, like characters in an Ibsen play.

The specific excesses differ. In America, a mismatch of government spending and taxes sent the budget deficit soaring, while in Britain the main problem was

an unsustainably fast expansion of credit. Each was compounded by failure to appreciate the results of removing regulations. In America, the deregulation of savings and loan companies (building societies) while government guaranteed their deposits triggered a boom of irresponsible lending and fraud which is now costing taxpayers hundreds of billions of dollars. The bill is probably at least five or six times that of the Gulf war.

In Britain, the easing of controls fuelled a housing and credit boom in which many people over-extended themselves, especially the newly affluent in the south-east. Thatcher's children, John Muelbauer, one of the first economists to spot the problem, has argued in *The Oxford Review of Economic Policy* that "the greatest policy error of all was not to compensate for

the radical reform of the financial system by sweeping away the main fiscal privileges for owner-occupation". In an economy with several important distortions, removing one (by financial deregulation) while leaving the others in place, was worse than doing nothing. Mrs Thatcher never accepted that these fiscal privileges stoked the speculative fever.

The dispute between Nigel Lawson and Mrs Thatcher over exchange-rate policy ensured that restrictive action was not taken early enough. The mistake was not just the reduction in interest rates after the October 1987 stock-market crash (which Mr Major acknowledged as an error in the Commons on Tuesday), since Labour too urged this course. It was compounded by the tax-cutting budget of 1988.

The depth, and length, of the recession reflects these past errors and excesses, and the world recession has only been a recent hindrance. It has taken time for the build-up of debt of the late 1980s to be unwound.

Mr Major may have been partly responsible as a Treasury minister in 1987-9, but his direct role was limited to pushing Mrs Thatcher into the exchange-rate mechanism in October 1990. Economically, this may have been right, but politically it came at the wrong moment, since the pain of adjusting to the new fixed rate has been felt in the run-up to an election. Mr Major's strategy has been broadly correct since then, though the electorate was not thank him for accepting the Treasury view that last autumn recovery would start.

In America, Mr Bush had an even smaller direct role, as a sidelined vice-president, in the errors of the early-to-mid 1980s. But as he took charge in January 1989 (before Mr Major), he bears more responsibility for the situation now. He — and the Democrat-controlled Congress — failed to tackle the budget deficit early enough. And after being forced to reverse his ill-advised "no new taxes" pledge, he has faced political

criticism out of all proportion to the small actual rise in taxes. He is paying the price for not taking America's domestic difficulties seriously enough.

By temperament, both Mr Major and Mr Bush are managers, short on rhetoric and vision. They are right to handle the transition from a heroic age of upheaval, which had already lost its radical momentum well before they took over. It has been their ill fortune to clear up messes for which they were only partly to blame.

The public may vote against these leaders because of the results of earlier mistakes, but there is no sign that the electorates favour a very different approach. In America, voters are critical of Mr Bush because he raised taxes and presided over the recession, not because they want a return to the Great Society. Democrats have rejected the protectionist Tom Harkin and backed the pro-business Paul Tsongas. In Britain, there is no apparent desire for a sharp change of direction.

After lamenting the legacies they were left, Mr Bush and Mr Major may console themselves that few voters believe a Democratic president or a Labour government would do better.

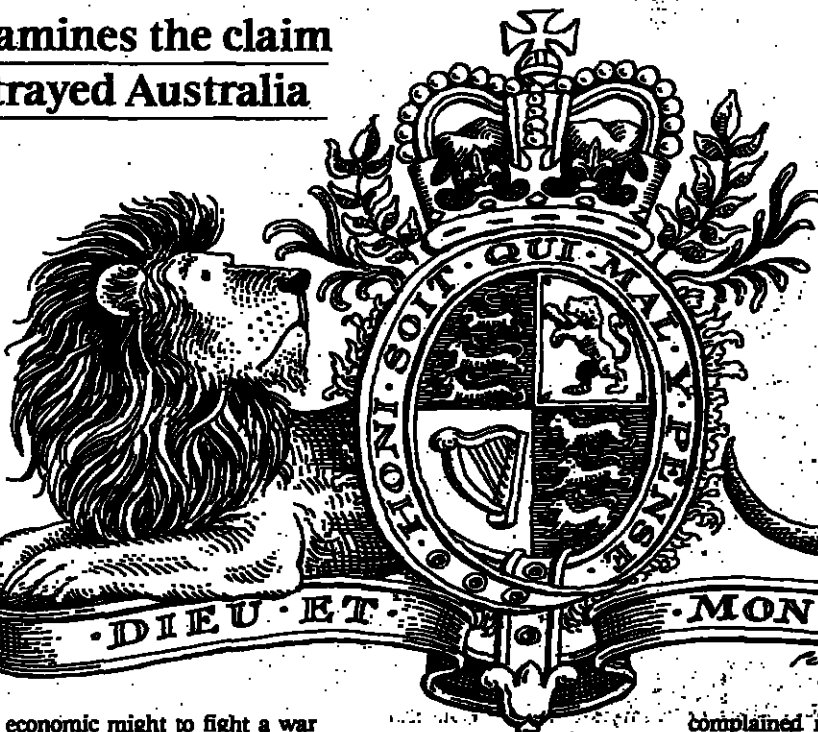
Martin Ivens examines the claim that Britain betrayed Australia

Put yourself in the shoes of the Australian prime minister, Paul Keating. The Australian dollar has slumped, unemployment is stuck at an obstinate 10 per cent and the national team has been beaten twice at home in the cricket world cup, by New Zealand, a despised cultural kid brother, and South Africa, once a parish name. There can only be one possible escape from this mess: bash the Poms.

By criticising his typically mazy reception of the Queen the Liberal opposition gave Mr Keating the perfect excuse to beat the nationalistic drum. Yesterday, Mr Keating accused the Liberals of a "cultural cringe" towards a country which allegedly betrayed Australia in 1942, and is supposed to have battered him and his kin 30 years later for a mess of Common Agricultural Pottage. But British and Australian interests, so geographically disparate, were bound to diverge. Both parties to this storm in a historical tempest have right and wrong on their side.

Between the wars, British strategy for imperial defence meant that Singapore, the Middle East and India occupied more of Whitehall's attention than continental Europe. It was not purely from Little Englander contempt that Neville Chamberlain spoke of Czechoslovakia as "a far away country of which we know little". Many imperial statesmen shared his vision.

By the 1930s, Mussolini's African ambitions appeared to threaten the Suez Canal, the imperial life-line to India, so the Mediterranean also became a critical strategic theatre. Britain then faced a textbook example of imperial overstretch. The Empire lacked the military and



economic might to fight a war on three fronts against Germany, Italy and Japan, but found it politically impossible to abandon any one of these commitments. British foreign policy fell between three stools. Under the benefit of hindsight, it is clear that Britain almost lost the second world war from the very beginning by failing to undertake in Sir Michael Howard's phrase, "a continental commitment". The Empire and Australia in particular, perhaps mattered too much.

But from an Australian nationalist perspective, the British record looks black. At the Washington Conference in 1922, Britain abandoned the Anglo-Japanese alliance which had guaranteed security in the Pacific. Australia advised against this, but Australia's interests were ignored when the United States put enormous pressure on Britain to sign. Isolationist America promptly left both Britain and Australia in the lurch.

Hopes of an adequate Pacific defence against an unfriendly Japan were thereafter pinned on the "impregnable" British base at Singapore. Australia also expected a British fleet to come to the rescue in wartime to keep the Japanese as far away to the north as possible.

Following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Churchill and Roosevelt adopted a strategy of "Beat Hitler First". Australia was furious that its interests had again been subordinated to an Anglo-American grand strategy. Worse was to come. The Australian government's representative in Singapore reported gloomily: "As things stand at present the fall of Singapore is to my mind only a matter of weeks... without immediate aid reinforcements".

By October 1941, Australia had a tough new Labor prime minister, John Curtin, who

complained repeatedly to London about "utterly inadequate reinforcements" in Singapore.

Churchill, the arch-imperialist, was more than sympathetic and promised to help. But Curtin was still not happy that the British lion's attention was focused on the welfare of her cub. Curtin's response was to write a famous article in the *Melbourne Herald* on December 27, 1941, calculated to "raise imperial hackles". It did, however, realistically set out Australia's place in the world for decades to come. "The Australian government regards the Pacific struggle as primarily one in which the United States and Australia must have the fullest say in the direction of the democracies' fighting plan," he said. "Without any inhibitions of any kind, I make it quite clear that Australia looks to America, free of any pangs as to our traditional links or kinship with the United Kingdom. We know the problems that the United Kingdom

faces... But we know, too, that Australia can go... and Britain can still hold on."

Churchill, with his back to the wall in Europe, was cross, his imperial pride was piqued. He cabled to Antise from Washington: "I hope there will be no pandering to this while at the same time we do all in our human power to come to their aid." He kept his word, but it was too little too late. By December 2, the battleship Prince of Wales and the battle-cruiser Repulse had arrived in Singapore, unfortunately, without cover from an aircraft carrier. The ships were ignominiously sunk. The guns of Singapore faced the wrong way and the British campaign in Malaya ended in calamity on February 15, 1942 when the Japanese marched into the city. But it is going much too far to describe Churchill's most humiliating defeat of the war as tantamount to an act of betrayal. Since 1945, material links

between the two countries have become tenuous. Mass immigration from the Mediterranean and Asia has greatly diluted Australia's Anglo-Celtic majority — Melbourne, for instance, is now the second largest Greek-speaking city in the world — although ties of friendship bind fast Britain then, belatedly, chose Europe over the Commonwealth. Our abandonment of Australia and her trading interests in 1972 was culpably abrupt, and we richly deserve discredit for it.

Australians and Britons still partly share a language and enjoy a mutually abusive friendship. We compete with bat and ball. Nowadays they lose. Paul Keating's brand of whingeing was unworthy of this traditionally amicable quarrel. Australia has a self-pitying cultural streak. Films such as *Breaker Morant* and *Gallipoli*, otherwise so entertaining, do tend to labour the theme of wicked upper-class Britons' betraying simple but good-hearted Australians. Novels, such as Peter Carey's brilliant *Illywhacker*, treat the Australian-British relationship with the benefit of too much retrospective wisdom. But there are the growing ranks of a young country still groping for its national identity.

Sadly, Britain and Australia may in time lose their last link, the monarchy, as Australia's Pacific location attracts new alliances — perhaps even without Washington's participation. But London should continue to play Australian flights of rhetoric with a straight bat. Canberra, in turn, should be careful not to outrage the war record of its own brave troops who fought for Empire and Australia in the Mediterranean and Burma as well as the Pacific. Their cause was noble, although our interests ultimately differed. Tread softly on our imperial dreams.



...and moreover ALAN COREN

Alembert Wednesday night, crocuses confident enough to stay open for a bit of moonlight, an insomniac chaffinch banging on about something or other, so trapped in a transmissional void between the end of *Sportsworld* at midnight and *England's* first ball against the West Indies at 3.25 am. I decided to go for a stroll.

Little on my mind, except irritation that this was the last night of Radio 3 MW. The rest of the World Cup cricket will be transmitted on Radio 5, wherever that is. Radio 3 insists on constantly informing me that Radio 5 is to be found on 909 kilohertz, a fat lot of use, I know nothing of kilohertz. I have just had to look it up to see if it really does have a capital letter in the middle, bloody silly word, and one unknown in China, if my Saishu radio is anything to go by.

Which it is. Anyone shopping for a transistor set would be well advised to go by the Saishu, it is not Japanese, as I thought it was in the shop, it is not even Taiwanese, it was made on the mainland, possibly during some cultural revolution or other when the kilohertz was deemed to be revanchist. The numbers on its dial bear no relation to any transmitter anywhere in the world. That is the trouble with thinking you know a bargain when you see one: the other announcement that Radio 3 keeps making is for those having trouble finding Radio 5, whom they advise to phone their

special Engineering Helpline on 0845 010 313, so I did, and I described the dial, and the helper said, "That's impossible, which set is it?" and I told him it was a Chinese Saishu, and he said, "Chinese, Chinese, what on earth did you buy that for, and I said, "£1.95", and he said, "There you are, then."

But this column is not about cricket, it is about being down'd for a certain term to walk the night, and in consequence fetching up against another such, just the other side of the Cricklewood-Hampstead frontier.

He was sitting on a garden wall, smoking a cigarette, and because he looked respectable enough, my dark suit, quiet tie, no mask or jenny, not wagging his head about and cackling to himself, I said, as I drew alongside, "Waiting for the cricket to come on, then?"

He looked at me, appeared, briefly, to be calculating whether I might be after his wallet, or even perhaps his body, then said, "I've been sent outside to smoke. Can you believe it? Can you bloody believe it?"

"Don't tell me," I said, "I've been there myself, your wife is trying to give up, am I right?"

"My wife?" he said. "My wife's over there, by the garage."

I peered. I had not spotted her in its shadow. Even now, I saw only a tiny orange blip.

"They chucked her out, too," he said. "I mean, bloody incredible. We've known these people ten years."

"We've been on holiday with

them," said the tiny orange blip. "I wouldn't care," said the man, "but we've been bloody good. They asked us for half-eight, and when I took a tag out they said, would you mind, nobody else here smokes, so it's been four hours. I mean we're guests for God's sake, and when this really ghastly bloody couple left ten minutes ago, the ones who were going on about smoking all the time, the ones who were boring my arse off — excuse me, I should have said, I'm afraid I don't like people boring, it's bad for my arse, if you want to bore arses off you would you mind doing it outside — when they left, we thought it's all right to light up, but our charming hostess said, look, I hate to go on about it, but..."

He threw his dog-end into an ashtray. "I wouldn't care," he said, again, "but when they weren't droning on about passive cancer or whatever it is, they were doing all that stuff about the Third World and rainforests and minorities and how we must all love one another etcetera, well you live round here, you know what they're like, and I thought, I'm a bloody minority. I'm a smoker, I'm a threatened species, what about a bit of caring coming my way?"

"They'd have let us smoke if we were Kurds," said the tiny orange blip. And I laughed, and walked on, thinking: that's what I like about a cricket match. You meet all kinds of people.

Mills and Gloom

SIR FRANCIS DASHWOOD, a Lloyd's name for more than 35 years, has found an unlikely way to vent his frustration at events in the insurance world. He has written a "romantic novel" — some would say a pornographic one — about the institution's greatest crisis in 300 years, entitled *The Great Lloyd's Robbery*.

The 11th baronet, who in his time has introduced to Lloyd's some prized clients, says: "When I was suggested that I write a book, I thought it was a damned silly idea. What I initially wrote was pretty boring, but my wife told me to put some romance in it. I did and then she told me I'd be better off as a pornographic writer."

Dashwood, who has yet to find a publisher, says: "I'm not too sure how the establishment will take to the book." He himself is certainly feeling the pinch. Apart from his own losses, he has gallantly come to the aid of other names, including Lady Dashwood. "He is helping to cover my losses," she says.

Dashwood, however, is no stranger to financial difficulties. In 1968 when things "were not looking too hot" — by which he means he was down by his last £110,000 — he turned to his old shooting partner Lord Carrington for advice. Carrington told him to try his luck in Australia.

I bought a farm just outside Sydney, which I sold ten years later. It made a handsome profit because it is now a suburb," Dashwood says. With this return he set up his own underwriting business and introduced Princess Michael of Kent, among others, to Lloyd's. Dashwood assured her that it was as safe an investment as she could make, and City rumour has it that the honourable baronet has



agreed to make good her losses. Lady Dashwood is not so sure. "I can't believe he is doing that, because he is already grumbling about helping me," she says. Sir Francis admits he remains a close friend and shoots with Prince Michael regularly. "We have some good laughs," he says — despite the troubled times.

Paul Keating's dubious accusation that Britain deserted Australia during the war may be prompted less by injured pride than by historical ignorance. According to the current headmaster of his alma mater, De La Salle College in New South Wales, Keating was not a noted history scholar before leaving the school at the age of 14: "He may have studied a little history," says Brother Adrian Watson. "It's hard to tell."

Scored out

MALCOLM WILLIAMS, who objected so loftily to Andrew Lloyd-Webber's involvement in the musical celebrations for the Queen's 40th anniversary, has failed musical in his own close. He does not boast about the sub-Lloyd-Webber work, and has omitted it from the hundred-plus compositions he lists in his *Who's Who* entry. However, the Master of the Queen's Music enjoyed his

first public performance in 1959, when his score accompanied such lines as: "The Queen is waking up. / The choir is chanting loyal hymns. / She's stretching out her royal limbs. / The Queen is waking up."

The musical, *No Bed For Bacon*, with libretto by Ned Sherrin and Caryl Brahms, was a disaster. "We wanted to use an unknown composer, and the music publishers Boosey & Hawkes recommended Williamson," says Sherrin, who does list it in his *Who's Who* entry, but admits it was hardly his finest hour. "He is a very bizarre man, with whom I hope never to socialise or work again. In the pub after the opening night he poured a pint of beer over Caryl's head. I just feel sorry for the poor Queen. I hope he doesn't treat her the same way."



Magic Wandsworth

MOSCOW's city council leaders arrived in London yesterday to learn how to run a local government. To Labour's annoyance, their first port of call was Wandsworth, the borough with zero poll tax, which is often described as the jewel in Mrs Thatcher's local authority crown. The Muscovites want to learn

about competitive tendering and selling council houses, and could not have started in a better place. Sir Paul Beresford, Tory leader in Wandsworth, says: "They told us they have no private sector. We told them that ten years ago local government here was also entirely dependent on the public sector."

And will the Russians also be visiting Wandsworth's neighbouring borough of Lambeth? "I don't think so. They know the situation in Lambeth pretty well by looking over their shoulders back home."

It's easier. Perrier's H2O Eau de Cologne is to be shelved, apparently far too sophisticated for a British audience. Whether it is the chemical formula or the French word which is causing the problem is unclear. "We just want to appeal to younger people," says the firm's ad agency, Eau deau.

Library lobby

A SHELF-LOAD of writers yesterday forsook their expensive garrets and assembled, blinking in the sunshine outside the House of Commons to lobby arts minister Tim Renton over the underfunding of public libraries.

They were all there: Michael Holroyd, Nina Bayden, Margaret Drabble, David Lodge, and their friends and agents. Especially their agents. Holroyd explained that his mother was an avid if eccentric library user. "She thought all books in public libraries were unhygienic, so before she read them, she would grill them in the oven to get rid of germs. You could tell those books because they were singed at the edges."

Ken Follet, too, said he owed his career as Labour's most passionate library supporter to humble public libraries. "I always used them," he said, "until I could afford researchers."



ISRAEL'S APARTHEID

The Palestinians have rejected Israel's proposals for Palestinian self-rule in the occupied territories as an "insult to anybody's intelligence". They have been restrained from walking out of the fourth round of the Middle East peace talks only by strong American pressure. Hanan Ashrawi and her fellow negotiators complain that not only has Israel retreated from the "barest minimum" autonomy promised to the Palestinians under the Camp David accords, the 25 areas in which Yitzhak Shamir's government proposes interim self-government over the next five years barely extend the limited rights under military occupation.

She is right. The word autonomy simply cannot be ascribed to Israel's "discussion document". It curtails the interim authority as to imply creeping annexation. It leaves sovereignty over land and water resources to Israel, as well as responsibility for defence, military security and foreign affairs. The Palestinians would have no authority over the settlements in their midst, which could continue unabated. The result would leave the Palestinians with a patchwork of rural "bantustans" round the cities, where "natives" had quite different rights and freedoms from Jews. Comparisons with South African apartheid are perfectly valid.

The Israelis say that since the gap between the two sides is so wide, it cannot be bridged in one step, but only by building mutual trust through interim agreements. The proposals are thus meant to be vague, leaving room for negotiation. The long-term future of the territories should remain open, and not be dictated by the United Nations, the Americans or any outsiders. What matters is a framework for coexistence between Israelis and Palestinians.

The Israelis would have to say that — while they are in the driving seat. Some Palestinians too are being unrealistic. They cannot hope to win an independent state when that state would be essentially unviable. Nevertheless moderate Palestinian leaders would accept Israeli garrisons and some linkage of their economy to Israel's. They might even

agree that not all new settlers must be evicted. But the call for an immediate halt to new settlements is just. Illegal in the eyes of the outside world, these now number 185, housing 229,000 Israeli Jews or nearly 6 per cent of Israel's population, if expanded at the planned rate 500,000 settlers would migrate to the territories by 1995.

Such an influx must question Israel's negotiating bona fides. Mr Baker sensibly concluded that there would be more will for compromise if, after five years of Palestinian autonomy, both sides found they could live together. The Israelis have permanently ruled out an independent Palestinian state. Mr Baker would only speculate on something "more than autonomy and less than statehood".

The Shamir government appears unwilling to contemplate anything beyond interim self-rule except more of the same. Even that is too much for the far right. Mr Shamir is now stalling on the details. Sooner or later the right must see that its three goals — democracy, a "Jewish" state and a permanent claim to "Eretz Israel" in its biblical boundaries — are ultimately incompatible. Democracy cannot function under occupation. A Jewish state cannot be maintained with the present birthrate of the Palestinian population, which will reach parity with Jews by 2015. Even with current high immigration, for every 100,000 Soviet Jews who arrive, the projected year of parity will recede by only a year.

Since 1967 Israel has received \$77 billion from America, approximately \$16,500 for every Israeli man, woman and child. Not only are \$10 billion in loan guarantees now at risk, but Mr Shamir must know that the past level of US financial support is unlikely to continue. His government should look ahead. Does it really want nothing but Bantustans and strife on the West Bank? This year Israel has an opportunity to secure what it most wants from its neighbours, an assurance of peace. If Mr Shamir cannot face this, then Yitzhak Rabin, the Labour leader, should have the chance to seize it.

NO PLACE FOR SUBSIDY

On few subjects is the gulf between the parties wider than on secondary education. On few subjects in education is the gulf wider than on "assisted places", a £67 million government scholarship scheme to help 30,000 pupils go to private schools. On few subjects is the argument more opaque.

Latest research appears to show that only some 40 per cent of these places, or 12,000, go to the less well-off. Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, takes pride in even this, many poorer children receiving the better education which the subsidy scheme ascribes to the private sector. His Labour shadow, Jack Straw, replies that the other 60 per cent are just middle-class pupils receiving a private school education at public expense. Such pre-election figure swapping is just the old bar-room joke about a beer glass being half full or half empty.

The merits or otherwise of the assisted places scheme do not depend on its take-up by the poor. By making it a "class" issue Mr Straw weakens his case. If the assisted places scheme is a misuse of the government education budget in principle, it is a misuse even if every one of the pupils comes from the ranks of the grindingly poor for whom (implies Mr Clarke) the scheme exists.

To be sure, there are bound to be parents who aspire to private education for their offspring, from a mixture of motives, but without the means to pay for it. This is the group, mostly Tory-inclined, to whom the assisted places scheme was always meant to appeal. Mr Clarke's continued invocation of parental "choice" in defence of assisted places is nonsense: the choice is the school's, not the parent's. The scheme is today largely a matter of the Tory party "looking after our own".

Mr Straw's motives for wanting to see the end of the scheme are partly of the same kind, only the group identified as "our own" being different. The allocation of state money

for education has never been anything less than political. But in principle Mr Straw is right and Mr Clarke is not.

Universal state education, as with health care, requires that everybody pays and everybody is entitled to benefit. Freedom of choice requires that the state should not have a monopoly, either of education or health care. Mr Straw would be wrong to legislate to outlaw private schools or private hospitals. As "those opting out" in effect pay twice, some tax benefit for private-sector services restores a rough equity. Labour should leave these arrangements alone.

But those who opt out and buy health or education in the private sector are on their own. They and the schools they patronise (whose falling rolls make them prime lobbyists for the scheme) have no right to any further call on state subsidy. Assisted places may have a superficial electoral appeal to Tories, though a dozen other vote-winning causes might be found for £67 million. But its major premise is extremely damaging: that public-sector education of clever children after 13 years of Tory rule is so poor that 30,000 must be helped to escape from it.

This gloomy premise is itself unproven. Audit Commission evidence suggests that the children who are assisted into the private sector do not receive a measurably greater "added value" from their schooling as a result. Most are selected as bright, and bright children fare well in most state schools. Yet by taking them away from state schools, the state diminishes those institutions. This is simply perverse.

The assisted places scheme is a misuse of public money to subsidise a private industry. That industry is worthy, vigorous and popular. If it wants to broaden its intake to embrace a handful of poorer children, so be it. But it should do so from its own pocket. Such policies should not be subsidised by the state.

SOMETHING BORROWED

"What do we as a nation care about books?" asked John Ruskin. "We call ourselves a rich nation, and we are filthy and foolish enough to thumb each other's books out of circulation libraries." Supporters of the "filthy and foolish" lobbied Parliament yesterday in defence of public libraries. They claim that cuts to the service are threatening Britain's cultural future. Are they right? And if so, whose fault is it?

Tim Renton, the arts minister, was so incensed by the lobbyists that he refused to meet them. He accused them of playing politics. Spending on libraries, he said, has risen by 18 per cent in real terms over the past decade. That seems to put the lie to the theory that financially strapped, charge-capped councils are cutting library budgets in order to make ends meet.

Certainly there are now fewer libraries, open for shorter hours and lending fewer books than in the past. In 1974, 229 libraries were open for 60 hours a week or more; now the figure is 18. The number of books borrowed has fallen from 648 million in 1985 to 568 million now.

If more money is being spent on the service, why then has its quality fallen? Library lobbyists really should be asking this question of local authorities rather than central government. The Euromonitor Book Report shows that half of all expenditure on public libraries goes on staff and only 16 per cent on books. There must be a suspicion that the money is being drained off into administration of no direct public benefit. No doubt some councils have cut libraries, in the hope that this will stir protest at charge-capping. The idea of a public library as a "people's

university", bringing edifying books at no charge into the homes of those who might not otherwise afford them, is noble. Many a self-educated person first developed a love for reading in the local library. Such people are manna from Heaven come lobbying time. But how committed to them is the bulk of a library's work? The answer nowadays is really very little.

Top of the list of authors borrowed each year are Catherine Cookson, Dick Francis and Agatha Christie. Romance, thrillers, crime and "sex 'n' shopping" novels glide far faster across the counter than anything else. Such a service is a straightforward undercutting of the private-sector book trade. These books are being offered free of charge for no better reason than historical precedent. If the state is to offer Mills & Boon free, why not a cinema ticket or day at the races? The borrowers are reading for entertainment, not edification. They could afford to spend an evening with a book simply by sacrificing an evening at the pub.

Most public libraries do excellent work, notably in general non-fiction, adult education, local history and reference. They also offer a valuable back-up to schools and local arts. But they are quintessentially local institutions. They have had plenty of money over the past decade, some but not all have spent well. Libraries that shut for several days a week are not serving their communities and it is those who shut them who should be the target of demonstrators. If they need to cut costs, they would do well to heed Ruskin again: "All books are divisible into two classes: the books of the hour, and the books of all time." Let them lend only the latter.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Academic skills at the cutting edge

From the Chairman of the Academic Council, University of London

Sir, Your leading article of February 24 on the academic profession, "Cry from the ivory tower", might have carried greater conviction had it reflected a more accurate grasp of realities.

Teaching at university level is much more than the mere transmission of knowledge. Only those at the cutting edge of their subject, in research terms, can be expected to bring to their teaching the critical skills necessary to guide them, and their students, through the mass of secondary material with which they are confronted. We have — in short — come a long way since the days of Cardinal Newman.

You exhort academics to do "much of their research in the gaps in their daily routine", apparently unaware that heavier teaching loads mean that there are far fewer "gaps" in the daily routine than was the case, say 20 years ago. In any case, research at university level, whether in the sciences or the humanities, is not something that can be seriously pursued in the odd hour between lectures; it requires sustained and if possible uninterrupted effort over a period of time, and it cannot be done on the cheap.

The implication that over-reliance on money from central government threatens academic freedom is disingenuous. I raise research money from both public and private sources. But I realise this is merely replacing one form of dependency by another. At bottom, academic freedom means that he who pays the piper does not call the tune.

You suggest that "the scholar who cannot find a patron" must "go". Why, if his or her scholarship, judged by peer review, is of high quality? In this university research of the highest calibre, measured by international standards, is carried out without any specific funding. To judge research and scholarship merely, or even primarily, by the funding it attracts is as perverse as basing such judgment upon citation analysis — the frequency with which the work of one scholar is cited by others.

Of course universities have a duty to the national interest, to serve national needs in both research and teaching. I doubt that this duty will be the better fulfilled by replacing current flexibilities inherent in con-

tracts specifying no fixed hours of work by conditions of service imposing (say) a fixed working day over a 48-week year. Equally, I doubt that this duty can be fulfilled without adequate levels of remuneration and the recognition that reform through underfunding must ultimately be counter-productive.

Yours faithfully,
 GEOFFREY ALDERMAN,
 Chairman, Academic Council,
 University of London,
 Senate House, Malet Street, WC1,
 February 24.

From Professor Bernard Harrison

Sir, Your editorial on the universities is an admirable contribution to the promotional literature of central planning. It ably reflects the state of mind of a government besotted with the illusion of absolute control. In the profundity and scope of the objections it ignores, or answers with sophistry, it recalls the propaganda which accompanied Stalin's five-year plans.

I shall mention only three of the biggest difficulties facing the present schemes. The first is that no profession can continue to function if the conditions above the broader, humane functions of its activities which have sustained it in the past are abruptly rendered void by the withdrawal of the conditions of work which made the pursuit of such goals practicable.

The second is that once morale in an institution has hit the deck it is apt to stay there, and to prove very difficult indeed to revive by administrative decree. The third is that a British government has no means of closing its frontiers to departing talent.

I shall keep your piece, if only to set it beside the journalistic hand-wringing to come, in ten or 15 years' time, when the universities have joined the schools, the public libraries, and much else, in the infirmity of moribund, semi-defunct institutions which served the country quite well until the politicians got at them.

Yours sincerely,
 BERNARD HARRISON,
 School of English and
 American Studies,
 Arts Building,
 University of Sussex at Brighton,
 Falmer, Brighton, East Sussex,
 February 24.

Peterhouse dispute

From Professor Patrick Collinson

Sir, I almost addressed this letter to the editor of *The Jupiter*, so Trollopean is your colourful account of the Cambridge historical scene. Contrary to your report (February 21) we are not "at war" over the renewal of Dr John Adamson's fellowship at Peterhouse.

Speaking for the history faculty of which I am chairman, not for any particular college, I do not fear for the reputation of the university on account of its historians. Quite the reverse. What Peterhouse chooses to do about a renewable fellowship is a matter for Peterhouse.

The truth or otherwise of allegations of manipulating the evidence of 17th-century manuscripts will be determined not, as your leading article in the same issue suggests, by the lobbying skills of rival historical factions but by the normal expedient of consulting the documents themselves. I understand that to be the whole point of the controversy.

Yours sincerely,
 PATRICK COLLINSON,
 Faculty of History,
 University of Cambridge,
 West Road, Cambridge.

Women deacons

From the Reverend Paul Harvie

Sir, Catherine Milford (letter, February 24) states that women are being called by God to the priesthood. Surely this is what the argument is all about? If it were certain that women were being so called, who could speak against it? If it is not, what bishop could dare go ahead with such an ordination?

Isaiah, whom she quotes ("Whom shall I send and who will go for us?"), was not being called to priesthood but to prophesy. Many wonderful women have answered this call and still do; they do not need to be priests.

Yours sincerely,

P. J. HARVIE,
 7 Paradise Road,
 Dundee, Tayside,
 February 24.

Image of Arnhem

From Mrs Daphne Bowers

Sir, After Kate ter Horst (obituary, February 25) returned home at the end of the war she placed in her garden in Oosterbeek a statue of a fallen Pegasus — the Airborne symbol but up-side-down.

After a time, when it seemed to her that much good had come out of the battle of Arnhem as well as disaster, Kate felt that the symbol was not right and did not tell the whole story. She had a pool made beneath the statue, so that looking into the waters the Pegasus became a risen Pegasus again and a sign of hope.

Yours sincerely,
 DAPHNE BOWERS,
 Brow House,
 Blackbeck, Egremont,
 Cumbria,
 February 25.

Prescription errors

From the President of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain

Sir, Mr John Forrest's letter (February 24) suggests, from his recent experience, that there is a proportion of pharmacies in which the necessary care in dispensing is not exercised. This is certainly not borne out by evidence available from the NHS drug testing scheme or from reports to family health service authorities or to the Royal Pharmaceutical Society (the registering and professional body for pharmacy).

The number of dispensing errors among the 450 million UK prescriptions each year is extremely small. This is because the need for great care and accuracy is a predominant feature of the scientific education and training of pharmacists and in the profession's standards of practice. The law requires that every prescription taken into a community pharmacy will be dispensed by or under the supervision of a registered pharmacist.

The public can be confident that the Royal Pharmaceutical Society will continue to ensure that the requirements of the law and the high standards of professional practice will be met in all pharmacies.

Yours faithfully,
 DAVID COLEMAN,
 President,
 Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain,
 1 Lambeth High Street, SE1.

From Mr Kenneth Mullan

Sir, Concern about negligent dispensing was reflected, for instance, in a judgment in the Court of Appeal, *Prendergast v Sam & Dee Ltd*. A pharmacist dispensed a diabetic drug to a non-diabetic, who suffered brain damage as a result.

Scout groups at work in inner cities

From District Commissioner C. M. Cochand

Sir, As a member of the criminal Bar I have spent the past 14 years both prosecuting and defending juveniles. As a Scout leader since 1974 I am responsible for over 600 young people, with 50 volunteer leaders, in a reasonably prosperous inner-city borough. Over 80 per cent of the teenagers in my 20-odd Scout groups would be described as working class and live on housing estates.

The home secretary has talked about plans for disaffected youths on estates (report, February 27). He mentioned on the radio a programme of camping in Wales and said the Home Office funded a youth worker in Hammersmith to combat the drug problem. The Prince of Wales talks of teaching citizenship in schools.

The Scouts do all these things but like most bureaucracies, the Scout Association gobbles resources, some £4 million to £5 million annually. At the bottom we never see it. My local council, sympathetic to the Scouts, spends £3 million a year on the voluntary sector. We got grant aid for a resuscitation dummy training aid and £300 for a training camp, total £345. We own no premises and pay no salaries, our overheads annually are about £3,000, mostly for camps, hire of halls for swimming galas, etc., but we're dying.

Under the Inner London Education Authority we were allowed free use of school premises, free access to camping gear and substantial financial support for items such as mini-buses. All are now gone.

Two of our groups remaining in North Kensington are on notice to leave or pay rents of up to £25 per hour. It is impossible for us to raise such money: the parents don't have

it, or the interest or the will. Inner cities are not like the prosperous suburbs, where communities exist.

I have tried for three years to find support for taking scouting to the hidden Moroccan community, the second largest immigrant group in the borough. Give me inner-city premises, derelict as you like, access to transport and rent-free accommodation (remember all those empty council flats) for young leaders who cannot afford to live close enough and I promise you the most cost-effective juvenile programme in the world. Every penny would help tomorrow's committed citizens.

Yours truly,
 CHAS. M. COCHAND,
 District Commissioner,
 Kensington and Chelsea District Scout Council,
 60 Wandale Road, SW17,
 February 27.

From Mrs Anabel Loyd

Sir, The home secretary could learn from projects for street children in certain developing countries — e.g., the Sudan and India, where the Street Kids International has initiated successful projects — when trying to tackle youth crime at home. Institutionalisation by whatever name will only create further problems. Make these kids feel useful in their communities and they will learn responsibility and gain self respect.

By all means a "task force" but a task force of youth for youth. That is the way for a new generation and a new century, not ideas borrowed from the Victorians.

Yours sincerely,
 ANABEL LOYD,
 17 Larkhall Rise, SW4,
 February 26.

Cup not running over

From Mr Anthony J. Levy

Sir, Our friends across the Channel are having a rough time, and not only in the sporting realm: I have just attended a wine tasting billed as "The Great Reds". It was a blind tasting and ten fortunate souls had the opportunity to savour the following:

- 1978 Cabernet Sauvignon Robert Mondavi, Napa Valley, California.
- 1972 Vega Sicilia, Valbuena de Duero, Spain.
- 1978 Garrafeira Jose-Maria de Fonseca, Estremadura, Portugal.
- 1982 Romanée-Conti, Burgundy, France.
- 1978 Châteaufort du Pape Mont Redon, Rhône, France.
- 1982 Sassicaia, Tuscany, Italy.
- 1983 Brunello di Montalcino Biondi-Santi, Tuscany, Italy.

Global warming

From the Chairman of the Friends of the Earth Trust

Sir, You report today that attempts in a cabinet committee to bring forward the date for the stabilisation of carbon dioxide at 1990 levels in this country from 2005 to 2000 were frustrated by Mr Wakeham, the energy secretary, on the ground that it could undermine attempts to privatise British Coal.

Could there be a clearer instance of party politics overriding planetary needs?

Yours faithfully,
 HUGH MONTEFIORE,
 Chairman,
 Friends of the Earth Trust,
 White Lodge,
 23 Bellevue Road, SW17,
 February 27.

Despite the finding that the writing on the prescription was unclear and capable of different interpretations, the court apportioned 75 per cent of the liability to the pharmacist. Liability need not stop when the prescription leaves the hands of the doctor, even when the doctor has been grossly negligent.

It seems likely that there are other cases, such as the one you printed on November 26, 1991 ("Tablets blunder man wins £300,000") in which settlements are reached but they may not be reported.

Yours faithfully,
 KENNETH MULLAN,
 University of Ulster
 at Jordanstown,
 Department of Public
 Administration and Legal Studies,
 Newtownabbey, Co. Antrim,
 February 25.

From Dr Ben Ross

Sir, John O. Forrest may understand better how it is possible for incorrect prescriptions to be dispensed when he realises that, while general practitioners must retire at 70 from the health service, pharmacists can continue into extreme old age.

Surely the same compulsory retirement age should apply to both professions, when the safety of the public may be at stake.

Yours sincerely,

BEN ROSS,
 38 Wykeham Way,
 Burgess Hill,
 West Sussex,
 February 25.

Business letters, page 21

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

Patient care

From Dr M. J. Healy

Sir, As a "first-wave" GP fundholder, I must take issue with Dr Michael Joy's conclusion (letter, February 22) that fundholding is in any way responsible for the difficulties he is having in treating the medical emergencies that need to come in to hospital under his care.

The funds that have been allocated to GP fundholders are not for acute emergencies, medical or surgical. They are for specific "cold" conditions such as cataracts, prostate, hip replacements, hernias, etc. The allocation of the funds to GP fundholders should not in any way affect the resources available for acute emergencies in any hospital as they were never part of that calculation.

Hospital managers may wish to tell the consultants that they were, but if they do, they are wrong.

Yours faithfully,
 MAURICE HEALY,
 5 Eversley Crescent,
 Winchmore Hill, N21,
 February 22.

Always behind

From Mr George Lansdowne

Sir, Mr Smeeton (letter, February 26) asks why the back-pocket button is the first to come off his trousers. Is it because he slouches against the back of the seat instead of sitting up straight?

Yours faithfully,
 G. A. LANSDOWNE,
 24 Turners Mill Road,
 Haywards Heath, West Sussex.

From Mr R. A. C. Le Cheminant

Sir, Has Mr Smeeton considered the strain on the average back-pocket trouser button when working at a desk? It must be considerably more than the pressure from an overfed stomach on the jacket or trouser-waist buttons.

Yours faithfully,
 R. A. C. LE CHEMINANT,
 1 Leopold Avenue,
 Wimbledon, SW19.

From Dr P. Glaister

Sir, I frequently lose the button from my trouser back pocket whenever I sit down on a wooden chair with horizontal slats. The button shoots off with immense speed, never to be seen again. The obvious solution is to remove the jacket after sitting down, but I always seem to forget.

Yours faithfully,
 P. GLAISTER,
 The University of Reading,
 Department of Mathematics,
 Whiteknights, PO Box 220,
 Reading, Berkshire.

OBITUARIES

SIR JOHN ROTHENSTEIN



Sir John Rothenstein, CBE, director of the Tate Gallery from 1938 to 1964, died yesterday aged 90. He was born in Chelsea, London, on July 11, 1901.

JOHN Rothenstein is remembered for his years at the Tate — years marked by a remarkable series of acquisitions for the gallery and for the often tempestuous circumstances in which his stewardship was conducted — and for his writings on art, notably his three-volume *Modern English Painters*, a labour of twenty years which took the story of British art from Sickert to Hockney. When read in conjunction with his autobiography, also an affair of three volumes, it provided not only an illuminating guide to modern English painting but a commentary on the English definition of art itself. His own life, as purchaser at the Tate had been so inextricably involved with modern art history and the British approach to it, that his insights were always close to the pulse of criticism and evaluation as it was happening.

By any standards the furore which attended Rothenstein's period at the helm of the Tate was an extraordinary one. Hounded for the decided nature of his views and for his buying policy, it seemed often that he could not survive as director. But he knew how to fight back (on one occasion he threw a punch at an art critic whom he thought was deriding him at a reception). And in the end his enemies became the victims of their over-violent antipathy to him. And when he left Rothenstein was acknowledged to have given the Tate a new freshness and vitality.

John Knewstubb Maurice Rothenstein was the son of the painter Sir William Rothenstein; his mother was Alice Mary Knewstubb, whose father was also a painter. When Rothenstein was two the family moved to Hampstead, where the greater part of his childhood was spent. His education was liberal rather than conventional, starting at two day-schools in London, and continuing at Bedales till he went to Worcester College, Oxford, in 1920.

A much stronger formative influence in his childhood and early youth was the circle of people whom he met at his parents' house, which included writers like Conrad and

Hudson and artists like Augustus John and Eric Gill; most influential, perhaps, was Max Beerbohm. By the time he came down from Oxford his father had been appointed principal of the Royal College of Art, and here Rothenstein met a remarkable circle of young artists, including Henry Moore, John Piper and Barbara Hepworth. At the same time he came to know the Sitwells, Wyndham Lewis, Stanley Spencer, Jacques Emile Blanche, and John Strachey. During this period he published a number of articles in the more highbrow periodicals. His one important work published at this time was a catalogue of his father's drawings.

In 1927, despairing of making a career in this country, he accepted an invitation to go as a lecturer to the University of Kentucky. There he met Elizabeth Smith, whom he married in 1929. After a year he moved to Pittsburgh and in 1930 returned to London.

In 1932 Rothenstein was appointed director of the City Art Gallery, Leeds, and after a short time moved to Sheffield. There he was put in charge of the art gallery recently built by Alderman J. G. Graves to house a number of his pictures. These were of very mixed quality, and Rothenstein encountered difficulties owing to his unwillingness to hang some of them. During this

period Rothenstein joined the Roman Catholic Church, with whose doctrines he had long felt sympathy.

In June 1938 Rothenstein was appointed director of the Tate Gallery. The assignment was not an easy one. Under previous regimes the administration of the gallery had become chaotic, a situation which was made worse by the ill-defined and often unfriendly relationship between the Tate and the National Gallery, of which it was still technically a part.

War broke out before Rothenstein had been able to make any serious attack on the problems involved in the reorganisation of the Tate. The gallery was closed and the paintings moved to shelter in the country. In October 1939 Rothenstein was sent on a lecture tour in the United States on behalf of the Ministry of Information. Naturally during the war years little could be done at the gallery but a few paintings were acquired and in later years exhibitions of modern English art were sometimes held in the rooms of the National Gallery.

By April 1946 the Tate Gallery had been sufficiently restored for part of it to be opened and in the following years it gradually came to life again, largely owing to the efforts of Rothenstein. Perhaps the greatest success of this time was the series of exhibitions held in the Tate but mainly organised by the Arts Council, in which the London public, starved of art for six years, was able once more to see the great masterpieces of French and English art of the last 100 years, and in some cases — as with the pictures from the Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna — by old masters. On the whole these were years of peace and achievement, only interrupted by the disturbances with the Royal Academy over the Chantry Bequest.

In 1950, however, this happy state of affairs changed and the great "Tate Row" began, primarily started by the efforts of Leroux Smith, the Tate's deputy keeper, who seems to have aimed at dislodging Rothenstein in order to succeed him as director. Even many years on, it was difficult to view the battle objectively. Passions ran so high, so many personal vendettas were involved, so much false infor-

mation was spread about. The problem was further confused by the fact that for long the only account of the affair was that of Rothenstein himself in the second volume of his autobiography, *Brave Day, Hideous Night*. And it could hardly be expected that this should be a completely detached version. One could not guess from it, for instance, that at one stage the trustees of the Tate were so dissatisfied with the director that the question of asking for his resignation was seriously discussed.

What is clear is that Rothenstein was saved by the impermanence of his opponents, who overplayed their hand in such a way as to rally the trustees behind the director. That there had been great carelessness in the administration of trust funds is certain, and that there was much unease in staff relations is also demonstrable; but it must be said on the other hand that these errors could not justify the malice with which Rothenstein was dogged by his opponents.

In the end Leroux's appointment was terminated and he left the Tate. An uneasy peace was re-established, and Rothenstein remained director until his retirement in 1964.

Both by his acquisitions for the Tate and by his writings — notably in the three volumes of his *Modern English Painters* — Rothenstein did much to spread the appreciation of a generation of English artists whose work he had known as he grew up, but his taste was limited. He never sympathised with what were the more advanced movements at the time of his directorship, and he had what can only be called a prejudice against the art of the European continent.

True, under pressure from the trustees he acquired a certain number of important works by contemporary French artists, but he never really supported these purchases with enthusiasm. His attitude towards the Ecole de Paris, which comes out very clearly in his writings, may have been in part a reflection of his dislike of Bloomsbury, which in its turn was probably due to the fact that Rothenstein's father had quarrelled bitterly with Roger Fry.

Rothenstein is survived by his wife, Elizabeth and his daughter, Lucy.

SIR GEOFFREY ALDINGTON

Sir Geoffrey (William) Aldington, KBE, CMG, a former British Ambassador to Luxembourg, died on February 19 aged 84. He was born on June 1, 1907.

GEOFFREY Aldington was the British Consul in Tsingtao when the Japanese invaded China in the second world war. Forced to haul down the Union Jack, he hid it in an old tin trunk while he and his wife were held under guard in the legation. At the end of the war, however, he derived great pleasure from returning to Tsingtao, unearthing the trunk and once more raising the flag above the building.

After being released by his Japanese guards during the war as part of a general exchange of interned diplomats between the two sides, Aldington spent the rest of the war in Delhi, working on propaganda for the Ministry of Information and later for the Southeast Asian Command under Mountbatten.

Despite postings in Europe and the United States after the communist takeover of China, culminating in his appointment as ambassador to Luxembourg, it was as a Sino-logist that Aldington made his name.

After being sent to China to learn the language in 1929 as a student interpreter, he spent a total of 20 years in and around the country. Leaving Shanghai just before the communists marched in, he moved to Hong Kong as political adviser to the colonial government, where he was able to make full use of his deep understanding of

China and its culture. Geoffrey Aldington was a Londoner, educated at the City of London School and Magdalen College, Oxford, where he took a double first in French and German. It was on the evidence of this linguistic skill that the Foreign Office decided to train him in Chinese.

After his first two years learning Mandarin, he served as vice-consul in Peking 1931-33, then for two years as secretary to the British minister, Sir Alexander Cadogan, later to head the Foreign Office during the second world war. Aldington was acting consul in Chungking, 1937-39, and consul in Tsingtao, 1939-41. After the war he served as consul general in Hankow, 1945-46, followed by three years as superintending consul in Shanghai.

He never returned, however, after the communists took over. Following his three years in Hong Kong between 1950 and 1953 he moved as consul general to Zagreb in Yugoslavia, and Philadelphia before being made ambassador to Luxembourg in 1961. He retired from the diplomatic service five years later.

A scholarly, humorous man with an infectious chuckle, Aldington took delight in calling himself one of Britain's first "instant knights". He was among the first to benefit from the new ruling in the summer of 1965 which allowed knights to call themselves "Sir" on being gazetted instead of having to wait for the Queen's accolade.

Aldington is survived by his wife, Roberta, and by their two daughters.

APPRECIATIONS

Sir Henry Rowe

HENRY Rowe, as your excellent obituary (February 19) of him well demonstrates, was a man of the utmost intellectual distinction, which could sometimes be awe-inspiring to those in the Public Bill Office and at the Table of the House who were privileged to deal with him; but his occasional acerbity (the word is yours) was offset always by perfect courtesy, and often by a very pretty wit.

The story is told that during his final interview before being accepted into the Parliamentary Counsel Office one of his interviewers was rash enough to ask him whether he felt entirely confident that the fact that English was not his mother tongue would not to some extent impede him in his work of



draftsmanship. To this rather impertinent question Henry is reported to have replied with another: "Since when have the statutes of the United Kingdom been drafted in English?"

Se non è vero, è ben trovato.

Sir Charles Gordon, KCB, Clerk of the House, 1979-83

PROF MOHAMMED OMER BESHIR

Professor Mohammed Omer Beshir, Sudanese educationist and human rights activist, died on January 29 aged 65. He was born in 1926.

MOHAMMED Omer Beshir was a founder member and first chairman of the Sudan Human Rights Organisation and played an influential role in the development of higher education in Sudan for more than 30 years. He was also secretary to the round table conference held in 1965 which led to an end to the conflict in Southern Sudan in 1972. It was a particular sadness to him when the civil war broke out again in 1983 as a result of the imposition of Sharia criminal laws on the country by the then president Nimeiri.

As an educationist, Beshir was a creative academic administrator, quick to see what needed to be done and full of ideas on new areas to be developed in the University of Khartoum. In the 1950s he was a founder member and general secretary of a Workers Educational Association.

Later he was largely responsible for developing graduate studies in Sudan and became the first dean of the graduate college of the university — a crucially important initiative both for the boost it gave to research work and because it helped to reduce the cost of higher education by training young graduates in their own country. His final creation

was Omdurman Abila College, an independent college financed partly by fees and partly by funds raised with his usual spectacular success by Mohammed Omer himself. He conceived the college as helping to fill a gap in the educational and training opportunities by offering courses in practical subjects. Mohammed Omer Beshir was educated at the University College of Khartoum, where he obtained a diploma in arts in 1949. After the war he was sent on a scholarship to Queen's University, Belfast, where he graduated in economics in 1956. He took up appointment as assistant registrar (academic) in the University of Khartoum and, with a brief interlude in 1970-71 when he became head of the Africa department in the Sudanese ministry of foreign affairs, he remained in the service of the university until his retirement in 1974.

He took leave of absence in Oxford in the mid-1960s and obtained the M.Litt degree in 1966, his research being published by the Oxford University Press in 1969 in a book entitled *Educational Development in the Sudan*. He published three other books, two on the Southern Sudan and one, in 1974, entitled *Revolution and Nationalism in the Sudan*.

The last few years of his life were clouded by the events in the Sudan and the fact that he was not *persona grata* with his own government.

THE RIGHT REV PETER MUMFORD

The Right Rev Peter Mumford, Bishop of Truro, 1981-89, died on February 22 aged 69. He was born on October 14, 1922.

PETER Mumford's episcopate will always be remembered for a healing of a breach between Anglicans and Methodists. Anglicans in Cornwall flippantly call Methodism "the Established Church" as the county is a Methodist stronghold. Relations between the Methodists and the Church of England had suffered grievously through the failure of the unity scheme between the two churches. With effective diplomacy, Mumford invited the chairman of the Methodist district to address the diocesan synod, where he received a standing ovation; and both church leaders made a joint declaration to work together in every possible way, and encouraged their clergy to do so. Mumford created a new and positive ecumenical atmosphere.

Educated at Sherborne School and University College, Oxford, he went on to Cuddesdon Theological College, obtaining an MA in 1944. He did war service from 1942, reaching the rank of captain in the Royal Artillery, and was demobilised in 1947 to become a deacon in 1951 and a priest in 1952. He became Archdeacon of St Albans in 1973 and Bishop Suffragan of Hereford in 1974. He moved to Truro in 1981.

Mumford was naturally gregarious



and involved himself in many aspects of Cornish life. Unemployment has always been a bane in the county where it runs at 20 per cent. Mumford formed a business forum at his Ecop (Cornish House of the Bishop) to enable leading businessmen in the county to meet to form a think-tank for devising remedial measures for the young unemployed. He took the liveliest interest in

the helicopter rescue work of the Royal Naval Air Station at Culdrose, and, to get first-hand knowledge of what it was like to be rescued, volunteered to be winched up by a helicopter crew. He was one of the first to visit the families of the Penlee life-boat disaster, which was felt keenly throughout Cornwall.

He served as president of the Royal Cornwall Agricultural Show, and was an enthusiastic president of the Cornwall Garden Society. Outside Cornwall, Mumford was vice-chairman of the Central Board of Finance. He was a good communicator and commended the necessity and desirability of Christian stewardship to the general synod and to the Church at large.

Though a traditionalist churchman, he was what may be described as a loyal liberal Catholic. Opposed by training and instinct to the idea of the ordination of women, he yet accepted the decision to ordain deaconesses and did much to encourage women's ministry. When asked how he would react if the general synod approved the ordination of women to the priesthood, he said he would always put the collective wisdom of the Church above his own views.

He was always on excellent terms with his clergy, whom he knew personally, and involved himself with their families and problems. He leaves his wife, Jane, two sons and a daughter.

Dr Ian Mackenzie

DR IAN Mackenzie, neurologist, has died aged 78 in Guy's Hospital, London, where he was consultant physician emeritus. He trained in neurology at the National Hospital for Nervous Diseases and then became chief assistant to the neurological department at Guy's where, in 1955, he succeeded Sir

Charles Symonds as consultant neurologist. He continued to practise there until his retirement in 1978.

To most doctors the neurological examination is an arcane and time-consuming procedure. In Ian Mackenzie's hands it became a highly refined instrument, used economically to resolve the few diagnostic problems remaining after his shrewd questioning had unravelled the clinical history.

Aimery Somogy

AIMERY Somogy a prominent publisher of art books, has died at the Ambroise-Pare hospital outside Paris aged 94. He was born in Hungary in 1897.

Somogy came to Paris in 1925 and founded his publishing house in 1937. Among his early successes was *Hitler Todd Me*, a Ger-

man refugee's tale of horror and persecution under the Nazis. The book was on the best-seller list until the Germans invaded France in 1940. The book was banned and Somogy's publishing operation was shut down. After the war, Somogy published Arthur Koestler's *Spartacus*. Recent publications include the monographs of many famous artists, art dictionaries, encyclopedias and Pierre Cabanne's *Twentieth Century Art*.

Birthdays today

Mr Peter Alliss, golfer and broadcaster, 61; Sir Victor Barendse, former chairman Hawkeye, 61; Sir John Swire, 61; Miss Stephanie Beacham, actress, 43; Mr Alfred Burke, actor, 74; Dr P.P. Burkin, oncologist, 81; Mr John Carson, actor, 65; Field Marshal Sir James Cassels, 85; Viscount Dilborne, 60; Major-General E.S. Foulkes, 78; Mr T. G. Gard-Jones, MP, 51; Mr H.M. Grindrod, QC, 56; Mr Oliver B. Harris, former director, National Heritage Memorial Fund, 63; Sir Anthony Havelock-Allan, film producer, 88; Admiral Sir Peter Herbert, 63; Major-General M.F. Hobbs, director, Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, 55; Professor J.M. Irvine, principal and vice-chancellor, Aberdeen University, 53; Lord Joliffe, 67; Professor Thomas Kempner, professor of business studies, 62; Mr Barry McGuigan, boxer, 61; Mr George Malcolm, musician, 75; Mr M. Marriott, headmaster, Canford School, Dorset, 60; Mr Brian Moore, sports commentator, 68; The Earl of Onslow, 54; Professor Linus Pauling, chemist, 91; Mr Robin Phillips, actor and director, 50; Sir Ronald Radford, former chairman, HM

Customs and Excise, 76; Dr Peter Southern, headmaster, Banwell School, Woodford Green, 45; Professor Sir Stephen Spender, poet, 83; Sir John Swire, 61; Mr Harry Turner, managing director, Television South West, 57; Sir Brian Urquhart, former assistant secretary-general, UN, 73; Vice-Admiral Sir James Westhead, 56; Mr John Wilson, racehorse trainer, 36; Sir Michael Young-Herries, former chairman, Royal Bank of Scotland Group, 69.

The Royal Astronomical Society

The Royal Astronomical Society has announced the following awards for 1992: Gold medals Professor Eugene Parker, of the University of Chicago, and Professor D.P. McKenzie, of Cambridge University; Herschel medal Professor Andrew Lyne, of Jodrell Bank; Jackson Gwilt medal Dr F.R. Stephenson, of Durham University.

Church news

Clergy appointments
The Rev John Andrews, Honorary Curate, St Barnabas, Dulwich to be Honorary Curate, St Stephen's, Dulwich (Southwark).
The Rev Thomas Barrow, Assistant Curate, St Paul's, Harlepool, and part-time Chaplain at Harlepool General Hospital (Duchess) to be Assistant Chaplain at the Westminster Hospital, Islington (London).
The Rev Stuart Baxter, Vicar, St Mary, Nelson, to be Vicar, St James, Lostock Hall, Preston (Blackburn).
The Rev Isabel M. Brotherton, Parish Deacon, Duddesdon (Birmingham) to be Resident Minister, Hadesdon (Leicestershire).
The Rev John Cook, Assistant Curate, Bourne to be Rector, Colchester (Lincoln).
The Rev William S. Croft, Vice-Principal of Chichester Theological College to be Vicar, Fenham (Chichester).
The Rev E. Faith Cully, Deacon, St Peter, Filton to be Deacon, St John, Fishponds (Bristol).
The Rev Canon Francis H. Doe, Rector, Stopham and Fintworth to be Assistant Curate, Stansted (and Forestside) (Chichester).

The Rev Geinor Downs, Development Officer at Chichester Theological College to be Parish Deacon, Durrington (Chichester).
The Rev John Draycott, Vicar, West Bessacarr (Sheffield) to be Vicar, Christ Church, and Priest-in-Charge, St John, Erieh (Rochester).
The Rev Colin G. G. Everet, Rector, The Forthams and Rectory to be Priest-in-Charge, Stowupland, and Second Diocesan Officer for local non-stipendiary ministry (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich).
The Rev David S. Farrant, Vicar, Climping and Yapton to Ford to be Diocesan Schools Administration Officer (Chichester).
The Rev Colin Fowler, Team Vicar, Worcester South East (Worcester) to be Priest-in-Charge, Moulton (Lincoln).
The Rev John Hawkins, Curate, Holy Trinity, Birchfield (Birmingham) to be Assistant Curate, All Saints, Poplar (London).
The Rev Stephen J. Haylen, Curate, St John, Sevenoaks to be Priest-in-Charge, All Saints, Footscray (Rochester).
The Rev David L. Heap, Curate, St Gabriel, Blackburn to be

Vicar, St Christopher, Bare, Monsey (Blackburn).
The Rev Donald K. Henshall, Curate, St Mary Magdalene, Ribbleson, Preston (Blackburn) to be under the auspices of the USPG, Rector, St Paul, Charlton (New), diocese North Eastern Caribbean and Aruba.
The Rev Giles A. B. King-Smith, Curate, Greater Crowthorn to be Vicar, St Michael, Two Mile Hill (Bristol).
The Rev Vivienne Lucas, Chaplain's Assistant, West Middlesex University Hospital, and part-time Parish Deacon, St Augustine of Canterbury, Whitton to resign as Chaplain's Assistant and to be a full-time member of staff in the parish of Whitton (London).
The Rev John Marshall Evans, non-stipendiary minister, Rugby Team Ministry to be non-stipendiary Priest-in-Charge, Yoxall (and later to be ordained to the benefit of Yoxall as from 1 September) (Lichfield).
The Rev John Patrick, Assistant Curate, Franky to be Curate, Boston St Botolph (Lincoln).
The Rev Daniel L. Pope, Mission to Seamen to be Priest-in-Charge, Shipley (Chichester).

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Michel de Montaigne, essayist, Perigord, France, 1533; Henry Stubbs, physician and scholar, Farnley, Lincolnshire, 1631/2; René Reaumur, inventor and naturalist, La Rochelle, France, 1683; Daniel Solander, botanist, Norrland, Sweden, 1736; Berthold Auerbach, novelist, Nordstetten, Germany, 1812; Sir John Tenniel, illustrator and cartoonist, London, 1820; Rachel Eliza Fells, actress, Mump, Switzerland, 1820; Douglas Hogg, 1st Viscount Hailsham, Lord Chancellor, 1928-29, 1935-38, London, 1872; Henri Breuil, priest and archaeologist, Mortain, France, 1877.

DEATHS: Robert Fabyan, chronicler, London, 1513; Manuel Johnson, astronomer, Oxford, 1859; Alphonse de Lamartine, poet and statesman, Passy, France, 1869; Henry James, novelist, Rye, 1916; Arnold Dolmetsch, musician, Haslemere, Surrey, 1940; Maxwell Anderson, dramatist, Stamford, Connecticut, 1959; Rajendra Prasad, statesman, Patna, India, 1963; Henry Luce, founder of Time, Fortune, Life, Phoenix, Arizona, 1967.

FEB 28 ON THIS DAY 1991

The ceasefire in the Gulf war came just six weeks after the launch of Operation Desert Storm and 100 hours after the start of the ground offensive. General Norman Schwarzkopf, the allied commander, said that allied forces were at one point within 150 miles of the Iraqi capital and could have taken it virtually unopposed had that been a war aim.

"VICTORY FOR MANKIND"

PRESIDENT Bush, addressing the world through American television early today to announce a halt to the fighting in the Gulf war, said: "Kuwait is liberated. Iraq's army is defeated. Our military objectives are met. Kuwait is once more in the hands of its own people. We share in their joy, a joy tempered only by our compassion for the Iraqi people. Tonight, the Kuwaiti flag once again flies above the capital of a free and sovereign nation, and the American flag flies above our embassy. "Seven months ago, America and the world drew a line in the sand. We declared that the aggression against Kuwait would not stand, and tonight America and the world have kept their word. This is not a time for euphoria, certainly not a time to gloat, but it is a time of pride in the friends who stood with us in the crisis, pride in our nation and the people whose strength and resolve made victory quick, decisive and just. And soon, we will open wide our arms to welcome back home to America our magnificent fighting forces. "No one country can claim this victory as its own. It was not only a victory for Kuwait, but a victory for all the coalition partners. This is a victory for the United Nations, for all mankind, for the rule of law,

and for what is right. It is up to Iraq whether this suspension on the part of the coalition becomes a permanent ceasefire. Coalition political and military terms for a formal ceasefire include the following requirements: "Iraq must release immediately all coalition prisoners of war, third-country nationals, and the remains of all who have fallen. "Iraq must release all Kuwaiti detainees. "Iraq must also inform Kuwait authorities of the location and nature of all land and sea mines. "Iraq must comply fully with all relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions. This includes a rescinding of Iraq's August decision to annex Kuwait, and acceptance in principle of Iraq's responsibility to pay compensation for the loss, damage and injury its aggression has caused. "The coalition calls upon the Iraqi government to designate military commanders to meet within 48 hours with their coalition counterparts, at a place in the theatre of operations, to arrange for military aspects of the ceasefire. "The suspension of offensive combat operations is contingent upon Iraq's not firing upon any coalition forces, and not launching Scud missiles against any other country. "At every opportunity I have said to the people of Iraq that our quarrel was not with them, but instead with their leadership, and above all with Saddam Hussein. We must now begin to look beyond victory and war. We must meet the challenge of securing the peace. We've already done a good deal of thinking and planning. There can be and will be no solely American answer to all these challenges, but we can assist and support the countries of the region and be a catalyst for peace. Tonight, though, let us be proud of what we have accomplished. Let us give thanks to those who risked their lives. Let us never forget those who gave their lives..."

Britain to help destroy arms

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE government has offered Russia an unprecedented deal to help them in dismantling two-thirds of their nuclear weapons. British nuclear experts, special armoured vehicles and advice on reprocessing weapons-grade fuel are to be provided free.

The aid package, costing millions of pounds to come from reserve funds, was announced yesterday by Tom King, the defence secretary. The decision was the result of a visit to Moscow two weeks ago by a team of British experts, led by Geoffrey Pocock, the defence ministry's principal technical adviser on nuclear matters.

The Russians plan to destroy 20,000 out of 30,000 tactical and strategic warheads over ten years. British personnel will not be involved in dismantling the weapons. However, after a specific request for help, the government is to provide up to 20 armoured vehicles to transport warheads between facilities and railheads, and 250 special containers for moving nuclear weapons around. About £10 million has been earmarked for the first year.

Mr King said it was the scale of the dismantling programme and the tight timetable the Russians had set themselves that had forced them to seek outside help. "This will be the start of one of the most critical and valuable contributions we can make, protecting the world from what could be very major nuclear hazards," he said.

All former Soviet tactical nuclear missiles are to be transferred to Russia from other republics by July, and all strategic weapons by 1994. The special armoured vehicles being provided by Britain will cost about £1 million each and will have to be built by British companies. John Wakeham, the energy secretary, is to go to Russia next week to discuss further aspects of the British nuclear aid package. The Russians have expressed interest in nuclear reprocessing technology used by British Nuclear Fuels at Sellafield, in which weapons-grade plutonium and uranium are converted into fuel for non-military use. Small numbers of British experts will spend time in Russia providing assistance and advice. Help will also be given in environmental projects.

Oldfield backs winner with Ascot look

DENZIL MANEALANCE



Swishing into summer: a sand silk blazer, embroidered with white shells and beads, over a chiffon dress, left, from the Bruce Oldfield summer collection shown in London yesterday. Right, a shawl-collared draped dress with swallow-tail overskirt in shocking pink satin organza

By LIZ SMITH
BRUCE Oldfield showed off his summer collection in London yesterday and proved his grasp of what his customer wants. The show opened with neat jackets in crunchy cotton

matelassé in pale neutrals, or sugary shades which unbuttoned to reveal matching bare-backed dresses. In case the models' flowery hats and mother-of-pearl binoculars failed to summon up Royal Ascot, Peter

O'Sullivan's commentary on the soundtrack set the scene. For summer evenings, Mr Oldfield served up blazers in honey-coloured wild silk, encrusted with white shell and bead embroidery, to wear over narrow silk

jeans. Slinky bias-cut jersey or crepe dresses, an Oldfield speciality, are peacock in violet, cyclamen pink and emerald organza, with bouncy shawl collars plunging to a bow at the waist and a swallow-tail train at the back.

US group infiltrates motorway protesters

Continued from page 1
have become bureaucratic and tamed. They believe that peaceful protest has run its course. David Garland, the group's campaigns organiser, said: "Environmental policies are not being carried out fast enough in Britain. Things have to be speeded up and the only way to do this is through confrontation."

Two weekends ago, the group joined the largely Tory campaigners from the Twyford Down Association in Winchester, and Friends of the Earth, at a demonstration to protest at the start of works

on the motorway extension, which will cut a 400-foot wide trench through one of England's most heavily protected landscapes. While the other campaigners left the site when requested to do so by the police, members of Earth First refused, chaining themselves to machinery. There were six arrests.

Some observers fear that such confrontations may eventually lead to violence of the sort hitherto only associated with animal rights campaigners.

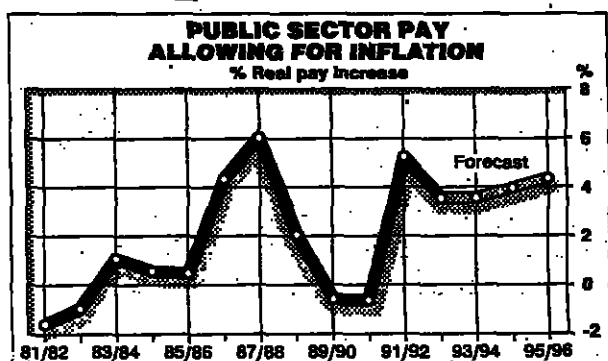
Earth First page 5

Pay boost for public sector

Continued from page 1
tor pay to fall behind in times of rapid inflation but to overtake private sector rises when inflation falls. This is partly because many public sector pay review arrangements base next year's settlements on last year's inflation.

The slow response of public sector pay is compounded by indexing and staged settlements, which may spread over several years. In addition, Mr Trinder said, there was evidence that public sector settlements tended to be higher in pre-election years.

His research showed a pronounced boom in public sector pay awards ahead of the 1988 election and a similar



surge under way now. "In 1987 the government paid settlements in full," Mr Trinder said. "They tend to do that when there is a general election."

This year public sector pay is expected to rise on average by 9.75 per cent. In January, inflation, measured by the Retail Prices Index, was just 4.1 per cent.

Political sketch

Beware the first cuckoo of swing

As any child knows, the first cuckoo in spring writes to The Times. Well yesterday, at 3.27 pm, I heard the first cuckoo in the election campaign. Nicholas Winterton (C, Macclesfield) supported the government.

The song of the Macclesfield Cuckoo, or *Cuculus Macclesfieldensis*, is a rare one. The bird is often heard in the Chamber, but almost never in song. Its familiar cry is a scolding sound, a sort of angry screech, for this bird has been in a continuous rage against the government for as long as anyone can remember.

From its customary perch below the gangway it rises, week after week, its silvery-yellow plumage ruffled in irritation, the area round its beak pink with fury, and pecks angrily at whichever unlucky minister is on duty. Month after month, the Macclesfield Cuckoo has squawked its displeasure at the decline of manufacturing industry, the disarray of the government's "care in the community" policy, and any one of a number of subjects known to outrage this sensitive bird. But it never sings.

Never, until yesterday. Heaven knows, we had warning. When Ted Heath wears his light blue socks, we know something is up. When Dame Peggy Fenner (C, Medway) arrives in full Aztec war-goddess's robe, we know it is serious. But when Nicholas Winterton compliments his own front bench, we know that this is it. We have lift-off. The general election is upon us.

Cuculus Macclesfieldensis first began to bob up and down on its perch during a question from Ted Garrett (Lab, Walsend). The bird's agitation was odd for Garrett is one of the most popular MPs in the House. His question, about the threat to British shipyards from German subsidy, reflected concern on all sides, and Mr Major, replying, appeared to agree. Besides, the question — technically speaking — was "whether the prime minister will visit Walsend". Walsend is nowhere near Macclesfield. So what bothered the Cuckoo?

Mr Speaker noticed the fuss and called the bird to speak. "On his way to Walsend, will the prime minister visit Macclesfield where he will find ...?" MPs prepared for a rant.

But no. The Cuckoo began to warble ... "an area

ready to respond to the sound foundations of the economy which he and I know the government have established ..." the Cuckoo paused. It was not unknown for this bird to preface its attack with a soft note or two. Four hundred MPs waited for the inevitable "But ..."

No But! This was all. The Cuckoo sat down. From the bench in front, Anthony Beaumont-Dark leaned over and with his Order Paper fanned his colleague, who had gone pink. Mr Winterton smiled.

The most tremendous cheer arose. The whole Commons, Conservative and opposition parties together, roared, as much in shock as acclaim. You might even have heard Mr Winterton praise the government, looked across, wide-eyed, at the phenomenon. The occasion reminded your sketchwriter of his boyhood in Swaziland, when, one winter, it snowed for the first time in living memory, and people ran in fear and wonder from their huts to marvel. Have stars collided? Will lions walk in the streets of London?

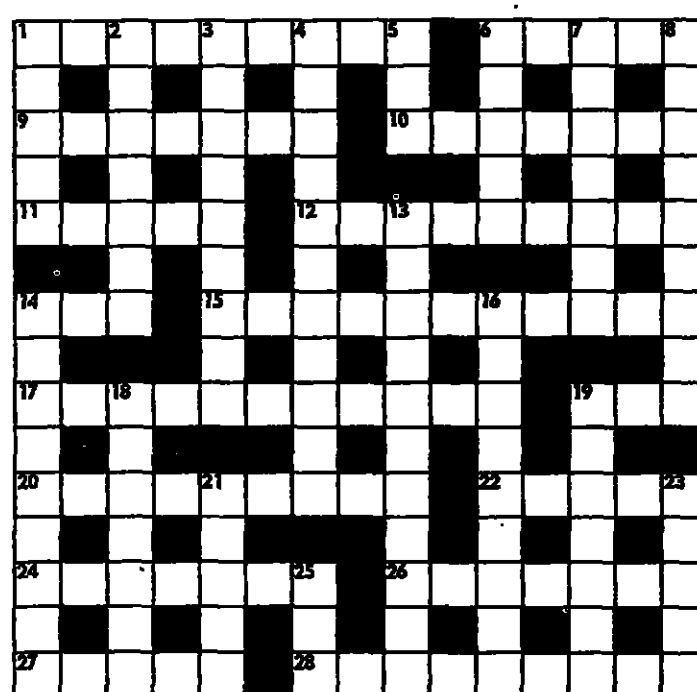
Younger members of the press gallery looked puzzled as MPs on all sides, clerks at the table and experienced journalists, roared and laughed and even the Speaker grinned. Why, wondered the junior ones, when a Tory supports the Tories, was everyone so surprised? Older correspondents explained in fatherly whispers. Down the corridors of the Palace of Westminster, through the tea rooms and smoking rooms and into the bars, ran the murmur: "Mr Winterton has supported the government! Allah be praised!" In the libraries, MPs re-checked Bagehot's *The English Constitution*, which mentions that the PM goes to Buckingham Palace before announcing an election — but says nothing about Mr Winterton.

Only upon the faces of Mr Major and the chief whip beside him, did a note of alarm register. Winterton was on board: where had they gone wrong? "What shall we, then, say to these things?" wrote St Paul to the Romans. "If God be for us, who can be against us?"

Indeed, thought the chief whip, but if Winterton be for us ...

MATTHEW PARRIS

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,853



- ACROSS**
- Mechanic producing a terrific explosion (9).
 - Premier duke concealing king (5).
 - Sky delivery, with all-rounder bowling (7).
 - Set off and run into bouncy character (7).
 - All the players scored (5).
 - Like a metal entering a different state (9).
 - Make fun of medical philanthropist (3).
 - Restrictive measure to take in a ringleader and others (5,6).
 - Affected by diversion, ain't put out — started going round (1,1).
 - Salt produced using most of acid (3).
 - Producer of old pictures appeared with artist on TV (3,6).
 - Leaving tail off fish (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,852

HANSARD SLEEPER
RIGHT GROVESQUE
INTERLOCK RHEUM
SMILE RHEUM
MEANS LEICESTER
ROAN RHEUM
CHEQUERED NEIGH
H E R E L E
APRIL WINDOWBOX
SECA T M O X
SPAGHETTI BANG
I D E N R R O
BLENDER GUERDON

- DOWN**
- Crewman on vessel without a superior (5).
 - Author's play appearing after play in series is taken up (7).
 - Explorer's little boy taken in by admiral (9).
 - Unable to face endless silly chat (1,1).
 - Lack of excitement? Not for stag (3).
 - Put on act willingly? So it was said (5).
 - Jazz season covered by newspaper (7).
 - One who bedevils people in high places (9).
 - Novel sort of enlargement (1,1).
 - Sage in a jar (9).
 - Knocking into shape in bloody battle (9).
 - It's displayed frontally in vehicle, namely as legal requirement (3,4).
 - Wine and brandy, for example, 14 ac gets attached to (4-3).
 - Imitation piano in mountain-top home (5).
 - Wader in water, gently rising (5).
 - Party split by an upstart or two (3).

Concise Crossword, page 9
Life & Times section

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which definitions are correct?
By Philip Howard

- REMOLADE**
a. A veterinary ointment
b. A pass at bullfighting
c. Double-milled meal
- ETUI**
a. A scud case
b. Barcelona, redium
c. A linen slipper for Muslims
- RENIDIFICATION**
a. Building another nest
b. Making textual glosses
c. Ear-drug reinforcement
- FORAMINUS**
a. Ravenous hungry
b. Full of holes
c. Baurwag

Answers on page 14

AA ROADWATCH
For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE	731
C London (within N & S Cross)	732
M-ways/roads M4-M1	733
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford	734
M-ways/roads Dartford T4-M25	735
M-ways/roads M25-M4	736
M25 London Orbital only	737
National	738
National motorways	739
West Country	740
Wales	741
Midlands	742
East Anglia	743
North-west England	744
North-east England	745
Scotland	746
Northern Ireland	747

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

Australia &	2,385	2,226
Austria Sch	21,25	19,75
Belgium Fr	25,10	23,50
Canada S	22,20	20,60
Denmark Kr	11,70	10,85
Finland Mk	10,85	10,00
France Fr	10,24	9,54
Germany Dm	3,015	2,815
Greece Dr	32,00	30,00
Hong Kong S	14,20	13,20
Ireland P	1,120	1,050
Italy Lira	2,270	2,100
Japan Yen	245,00	225,00
Netherlands Gld	3,39	3,17
Norway Kr	11,90	11,05
Portugal Esc	220,50	204,50
South Africa Rd	5,40	4,80
Spain Pta	167,50	154,50
Sweden Kr	11,02	10,22
Switzerland Fr	2,755	2,555
Turkey Lira	10,000	9,500
USA \$	1,85	1,73
Yugoslavia Dnr	DNB	DNB

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.

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dat celeriter.
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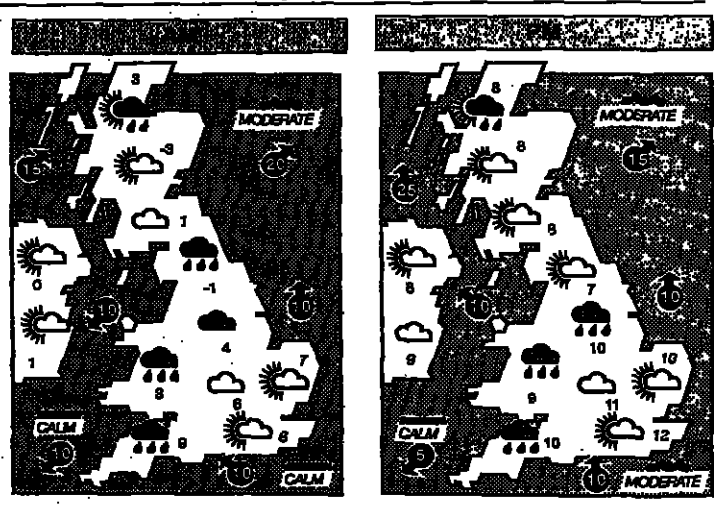
A band of cloud from southwest to northeast England will bring patchy light rain but this will die out. Showers over northwest Scotland will reach Northern Ireland and western Scotland by evening. The rest of England will be dry with bright or sunny intervals. Widespread frost is expected in all parts north of the Lake District. Strong winds are likely over western Scotland later. Outlook: more rain and wind in the northwest; dry elsewhere.

METEOROLOGICAL		METEOROLOGICAL	
City	Temp	City	Temp
Aberdeen	5.8	London	11.2
Aldershot	5.8	Manchester	10.2
Belfast	5.8	Newcastle	10.2
Birmingham	5.8	Nottingham	10.2
Bournemouth	5.8	Sheffield	10.2
Bristol	5.8	Southampton	10.2
Cardiff	5.8	Stirling	10.2
Colwyn Bay	5.8	Swansea	10.2
Cork	5.8	Torquay	10.2
Crawley	5.8	Warrington	10.2
Dundee	5.8	Widnes	10.2
Edinburgh	5.8	Wolverhampton	10.2
Exeter	5.8	Wrexham	10.2
Gloucester	5.8	York	10.2
Glasgow	5.8		
Harrogate	5.8		
Hull	5.8		
Leeds	5.8		
Leicester	5.8		
Liverpool	5.8		
Luton	5.8		
Manchester	5.8		
Marlow	5.8		
Milton Keynes	5.8		
Nottingham	5.8		
Northampton	5.8		
Oldham	5.8		
Reading	5.8		
Sheffield	5.8		
Southampton	5.8		
Stirling	5.8		
Swansea	5.8		
Torquay	5.8		
Warrington	5.8		
Widnes	5.8		
Wolverhampton	5.8		
Wrexham	5.8		
York	5.8		

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

TOURIST RATES		TOURIST RATES	
Bank	Rate	Bank	Rate
Australia &	2,385	Greater London	701
Austria Sch	21,25	Kent, Surrey, Sussex	702
Belgium Fr	25,10	Dorset, Hants & IOW	703
Canada S	22,20	Devon & Cornwall	704
Denmark Kr	11,70	Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Somerset	705
Finland Mk	10,85	Berks, Bucks, Oxon.	706
France Fr	10,24	Beds, Herts & Essex	707
Germany Dm	3,015	Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambs	708
Greece Dr	32,00	West Mid & Stn Glam & Gwent	709
Hong Kong S	14,20	Shropshire, Hereford & Worcs	710
Ireland P	1,120	Central Midlands	711
Italy Lira	2,270	East Midlands	712
Japan Yen	245,00	Lincoln & Humberside	713
Netherlands Gld	3,39	Dyfed & Pembro	714
Norway Kr	11,90	Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
Portugal Esc	220,50	N W England	716
South Africa Rd	5,40	W & S Yorks & Dales	717
Spain Pta	167,50	N E England	718
Sweden Kr	11,02	Cumbria & Lake District	719
Switzerland Fr	2,755	S W Scotland	720
Turkey Lira	10,000	W Central Scotland	721
USA \$	1,85	Edin & Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
Yugoslavia Dnr	DNB	E Central Scotland	723
		Glasgow & E Highlands	724
		N W Scotland	725
		Caithness, Orkney & Shetland	726
		W Ireland	727

Walesday: Highest day temp. Shrewsbury, Shropshire, 14C (59F). Lowest day temp. Clonmel-on-Sea, Essex, 03C (48F). Highest night temp. Trow, Devon, 15C (59F). Lowest night temp. Clonmel-on-Sea, Essex, 02C (36F). Highest sunshine: Belfast, 8.1 hr.



Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, rain; s, sun.		Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, rain; s, sun.	
City	Temp	City	Temp
Belfast	9.4	Guernsey	10.5
Birmingham	13.5	Inverness	10.5
Bristol	11.2	Jersey	10.5
Cardiff	11.2	London	13.5
Edinburgh	9.4	Manchester	12.5
Glasgow	9.4	Newcastle	13.5
		Reading	13.5
		Sheffield	13.5
		Widnes	13.5
		Wolverhampton	13.5
		Wrexham	13.5
		York	13.5

Sun rises		Sun sets	
City	Time	City	Time
Belfast	6.00 am	Birmingham	5.58 pm
Bristol	6.00 am	Bristol	5.58 pm
Cardiff	6.00 am	Cardiff	5.58 pm
Edinburgh	6.00 am	Edinburgh	5.58 pm
Glasgow	6.00 am	Glasgow	5.58 pm
London	6.00 am	London	5.58 pm
Manchester	6.00 am	Manchester	5.58 pm
Newcastle	6.00 am	Newcastle	5.58 pm
Nottingham	6.00 am	Nottingham	5.58 pm
Sheffield	6.00 am	Sheffield	5.58 pm
Southampton	6.00 am	Southampton	5.58 pm
Stirling	6.00 am	Stirling	5.58 pm
Swansea	6.00 am	Swansea	5.58 pm
Torquay	6.00 am	Torquay	5.58 pm
Warrington	6.00 am	Warrington	5.58 pm
Widnes	6.00 am	Widnes	5.58 pm
Wolverhampton	6.00 am	Wolverhampton	5.58 pm
Wrexham	6.00 am	Wrexham	5.58 pm
York	6.00 am	York	5.58 pm

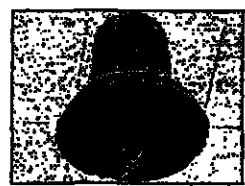


Information supplied by the Met Office

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TODAY IN BUSINESS

RESPONDING



Lloyd's of London has issued a robust response to questions about the workings of the market compiled by Conservative MPs concerned about the losses affecting names

SHEDDING

Philips, the Dutch electronics group, will cut more jobs and sell further businesses this year, despite a return to profits

CHARGING



Domestic gas charges will be frozen or even reduced, Robert Evans, British Gas chairman, said after announcing pre-tax profits of £1.71 billion

TOMORROW

PROFILE



Bernard Asher's hands-on approach has turned loss into profit at James Capel, the UK securities house, where he is chairman

PERKS

New perks are being used to reward employees and keep tax collectors at bay. Weekend Money looks at the latest schemes

THE POUND

US dollar 1.7575 (+0.0125)
German mark 2.8867 (+0.0013)
Exchange index 90.8 (+0.2)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 1986.7 (-16.2)
FT-SE 100 2562.0 (-3.0)
New York Dow Jones 3279.96 (-3.36)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 21333.70 (-31.07)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 10 1/4%
3-month interbank 10 1/4-10 1/2%
3-month eligible bills 9 3/4-9 1/2%
US: Prime Rate 6 1/2%
Federal Funds 3 1/4%
3-month Treasury bills 3.95-3.93%
30-year bonds 10 1/2-10 1/4%

CURRENCIES

London: New York
£: \$1.7544
DM: £2.8867
Sfr: £1.4988
FF: £5.5865
Yen: £227.10
Ecu: £30.8
ECU: £1.708289
ECU: £1.00802
London forex market close

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM \$350.85 pm \$353.75
close \$353.00-353.50 (\$201.00-201.50)
New York:
Comex \$354.35-354.85

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Mar) ... \$17.60 bbl (\$17.35)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 135.6 January (1987-100)
* Denotes midday trading price

Worst figures since January last year

Trade deficit soars to surprise £794m

By GEORGE SIVELL

THE government suffered another blow yesterday, this time from the January trade figures. They showed a monthly current account deficit up from £409 million in December to £794 million, as a result of a fall in exports and a smaller fall in imports.

However, economists have long cautioned against reading too much into one set of monthly statistics, especially the trade figures, which are notoriously unreliable and prone to subsequent revision. The February figures are due to be announced on March 23, two weeks before a possible election.

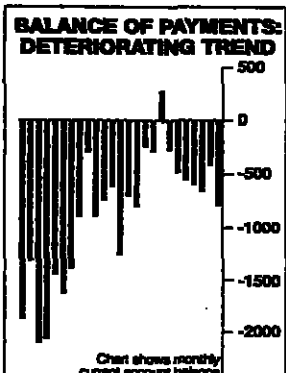
Yesterday's figures provoked more reaction from politicians than from markets. The FT-SE 100 share index fell 3 points on the day to 2,562, influenced more by losses on Wall Street than disappointment over the trade figures. City economists had expected a slight widening in the deficit to around £450 million.

The pound rose 1.25 cents to \$1.7575 by the 4 pm Bank of England close and 0.13 of a pence against the mark to DM2.8867.

January's deficit on visible trade, which excludes so-called invisible items such as banking insurance and tourism, was £1.1 billion, up from £700 million in December. The value of exports fell 7.5 per cent to £8.3 billion and that of imports was down 3 per cent to £9.4 billion. The value of oil exports fell from £195 million to £156 million. The value of the surplus on erratic trade items such as aircraft, ships and precious stones fell from £139 million

to £25 million. The figures were the worst since January 1991, when the current account deficit was £1.245 billion and the deficit on visible trade was £1.345 billion. That month was the last in which either figure exceeded £1 billion, prompting Central Statistical Office economists to look at whether the seasonal adjustment mechanism is working.

The CSO always prefers to draw attention to the quarterly figures. In the latest three months, the implied current account deficit was £1.9 billion.



lion, against £1.3 billion in the preceding three months. Over the past quarter, the value of imports was 0.5 per cent lower than in the previous three months and the value of exports was 1 per cent lower than in the previous quarter but 2.5 per cent higher than a year earlier.

Visible trade clocked up a deficit of £2.8 billion over the past quarter, compared with £2.6 billion in the previous three months. Over the quarter, exports of cars decreased by 12 per cent and imports of manufactured goods were 1.5 per cent up on the previous

three months. Yesterday, the CSO said that because of changes in European trade in 1993, no full trade figures will be published for several months after the December 1992 figures come out in January 1993. It will be the first break since a strike by civil servants in 1981 crippled the Customs and Excise computer, with the result that there were no trade figures between March and October that year.

Customs controls at EC frontiers will be abolished when the single market takes effect in January 1993. That means customs documents, the current source of European trade statistics, will be abolished. The new statistics will be drawn from VAT returns, on which businessmen will have to state export and import totals. They will take several months to appear in trade statistics.

The European Community accounts for an ever-increasing proportion of British trade. The CSO said EC trade accounted for 57 per cent of exports and 53 per cent of imports.

City economists reacted badly to the figures, even if the markets did not. They were described as "appalling" by David Owens, an economist with Kleinwort Benson, the merchant bank. "It is down to the slowdown in Europe," he said, adding that it was "not good news for the government". Exports could not lead Britain out of recession.

Nigel Richardson, of SG Warburg, another merchant bank, said the sharp fall in exports to Europe was "disturbing".

Comment, page 21

Midland trebles profit to £36m

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

MIDLAND Bank's profits more than trebled last year to £36 million, despite a £200 million rise in bad debt provisions to £903 million. City analysts had been expecting a loss of up to £80 million.

Sir Peter Walters, the bank's chairman, said the figures were moderately gratifying in a very tough year. "But we are fully aware of what we still have to do," he added. The profit was achieved by heavy cost-cutting and job cuts. Sir Peter gave a warning that workforce numbers would fall further.

There is an unchanged 1.7p final dividend. The reduction in expenses increased trading profits 25 per cent to a record £948 million. The bank's bad debts fell sharply in the second half, unlike its competitors. Midland has now made provisions against 9,400 corporate customers.

Sir Peter said that Midland is ready to sell Thomas Cook, its travel agent subsidiary. The bank will consider any offer of more than £200 million.

Sir Peter, gratifying

Tempos, page 20

Royal Insurance unveils £373m loss

By JONATHAN PRYNN

ROYAL Insurance has reported a £373 million pre-tax loss (£187 million loss) for 1991, the biggest ever by a UK composite insurer, after being hit by more than £250 million of mortgage indemnity losses. The final dividend has been axed, leaving the total payout at 11.25p (26p).

The market reacted with concern at the size of the losses and the decision not to pay a final dividend. Analysts said that the company had not made its current dividend policy clear and many brokers are forecasting a further cut or no dividend payment at all for 1992. The shares fell by 36p to 190p.

Richard Gamble, the chief executive, said that the dividend decision "did not reflect any lack of faith in the future of the business, but reflects

the need to improve the solvency margin until the benefit of many profit improvement measures we are taking flows through".

Mr Gamble outlined a series of cost cutting and other measures.

Royal UK made a loss before tax of £367 million and, apart from the mortgage indemnity losses, was affected by an increase in their claims to £78 million and a £45 million deterioration in the marine account. The group made an £18 million pre-tax profit in America, the first for four years.

Sun Alliance, meanwhile, is expected to report a loss in excess of £400 million and total losses for the sector could reach £1.3 billion.

Tempos, page 20

Airlines fail to agree joint venture split

BA-KLM merger talks called off

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Airways failed again in its attempt to form a global airline yesterday when negotiations with KLM, the Dutch national carrier, were abandoned. Both airlines had hoped to combine into a new airline that would have been the fourth biggest in the world using Heathrow and Schiphol airports as European hubs and Detroit or an American east coast city as the North American centre of operations.

BA, Europe's most profitable airline and the envy of its big loss-making rivals in America, had demanded a share of the capital of the new joint venture that KLM could not accept. The talks ended after Lord King, BA's chairman, made it clear that he was not prepared to accept anything less than a 70 per cent share of the new airline, while KLM would not agree to more than 60 per cent.

In fact, BA regarded even the 70/30 split as generous toward KLM and had originally planned on taking an 80 per cent stake in the new venture; below that, they told the Dutch, they would

have simply been pouring their hard-earned profits into KLM.

But the Dutch government, which owns half the airline, and the powerful Dutch unions were worried about the political implications of allowing what amounted to a takeover of their national carrier by a foreign airline.

Lord King said yesterday that negotiations with a number of unnamed carriers had been held up until the KLM deal had either been finalised or ended. "I will do a deal one of these days," he said. "But when I do it will be at a price that suits us and not at a price that suits someone else. In the meantime we don't have to do anything because we are strong and profitable as we are."

Attempts by BA to link with United, Air New Zealand and Sabena have all failed over the last few years, giving present putative partners the opening to press their demands hard in the belief that BA may be becoming desperate to do a deal.

In Europe, most of the openings appear to have been closed already. The Benelux countries had always been the obvious area for the development of a

European hub but with both KLM and Sabena having been wooed and lost there is now nothing left there.

Air France and Lufthansa have come together in a close marketing link. Iberia and Alitalia look likely to form a partnership and SAS has close working relationships with several airlines, including Austrian and Swissair.

In America the two obvious candidates for a potential partnership are USAir, which is expanding rapidly in its domestic market and needs an international link, and Southwest, which is not only profitable but rapidly expanding its network, based largely on a "no frills" service that has captured the imagination of American passengers.

Among the outsiders for involvement with BA is Continental, which is operating under chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. SAS has a stake in Continental and is also a major shareholder in British Midland Airways. BMA, in turn, has just signed a marketing deal with United, including a code-sharing arrangement allowing travel agents in America to sell "through" services directly onto a matching BMA service in Europe.



Gloomy outlook: Sir Denys Henderson, chairman, believes bulk chemicals might not recover until 1993

ICI chief sceptical of quick upturn

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

SIR Denys Henderson, chairman of ICI, dampened hopes of a quick recovery in the company's fortunes with a warning that he saw no sign of economic upturn in the main industrial countries and that the bulk chemical cycle might not turn up until 1993. He said: "The coming months will continue to be difficult worldwide and, in view of the global uncertainties, it would not be prudent at this stage to attempt to predict when recovery might begin. But when it comes, it is very likely to be gradual."

ICI was well placed to exploit an upturn, he said, but "the immediate emphasis will remain on cost containment and cash conservation". In 1991, sales fell 3 per cent to

£12.9 billion. Pre-tax profits fell a further 10 per cent, on a comparable basis, to £843 million, despite higher profits from pharmaceuticals, paints, agrochemicals and explosives.

Fourth-quarter profits recovered from £43 million to £140 million thanks to cost-cutting.

The dividend is maintained at 55p from earnings down to 76.4p per share (82.3p). Sir Denys said it would not have been prudent to raise the dividend in the absence of firm signs of profit improvement.

Pharmaceutical profits increased by 10 per cent to £538 million and the agrochemicals and seeds business made £144 million. Together, the two divisions account-

ed for two thirds of group trading profits. Profits from bulk industrial chemicals fell from £205 million to £135 million and would have been worse but for the inclusion of Tioxide, previously an associate. The materials division doubled its loss to £20 million and ICI has stopped making advanced resin-based materials. Ronnie Hampel, chief operating officer, said ICI could not afford losses of £50 million.

Mr Hampel said ICI had completed more than 30 of the 52 items allowed for in the £300 million extraordinary provision made a year ago for restructuring. The 1991 results benefited from £140 million of cost savings, equivalent to £200 million

annually and halfway to the target of £400 million. Disposals raised £500 million and 11,000 jobs have already been shed in continuing businesses.

All divisions except pharmaceuticals were obliged to halve routine budgeted investment, and capital restraint will continue. A quarter of capital spending is now on environmental improvement, including expansion of replacements for chloro-fluorocarbons and measures to reduce waste and effluent.

A further £37 million is being spent quadrupling capacity for Quorn, the group's non-animal food protein.

Comment, page 21



1991 Group Results

The trading results of the Group for the year 1991, subject to completion of the audit, together with comparative figures for 1990, are as follows:

ICI Group financial highlights		
*Group means Imperial Chemical Industries PLC and its subsidiaries. £m means millions of pounds sterling.		
	1990*	1991
	£m	£m
Turnover	12,906	12,488
Profit before taxation	936	843
Earnings per £1 Ordinary Share	82.3p	76.4p
Dividends per £1 Ordinary Share	55.0p	55.0p

*Restated to reclassify as an exceptional item (and therefore charge against profit before taxation) the fourth quarter 1990 extraordinary charge of £14m pre-tax, relating to restructuring the Tioxide business.

Abridged results: full statutory accounts for the year 1990 with an unqualified audit report have been lodged with the Registrar of Companies.

Trading results for the first quarter of 1992 will be announced on Thursday 30 April 1992.

IMPERIAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES PLC

Alfred McAlpine braced for tough year ahead

BY MARTIN WALLER

PRE-TAX profits at Alfred McAlpine, the construction group that Graeme Odgers, the former BT deputy chairman, is trying to steer out of recession, remained barely changed at £9.3 million against £9.2 million in the year to end-October. Mr Odgers, chief executive, has predicted another difficult year.

McAlpine is paying a 5.8p final dividend, making a total unchanged at 10.3p on share capital enlarged by last year's

rights issue, and the payment is uncovered, leaving a £2.3 million deficit.

Mr Odgers gave a warning that the first-half performance this year would be poor, but that the full year would show "modest improvement". The previous year's attributable profits were severely dented by £39 million of provisions; this time extraordinary provisions, in respect of closed or closing businesses, are sharply reduced to £3.9 million.

The £39 million rights issue has left a mere £3.1 million of borrowings, or year-end gearing of 1.9 per cent. Much of the debt is in dollars at low rates capped for 18 months.

Turnover fell 7 per cent to £621 million and gross profits were £8.4 million lower at £69.2 million, but operating costs fell £7.2 million to £54.5 million. At the operating level, the construction division declined £2.1 million to £7.3 million, but homes and minerals were both slightly ahead. Profits from the American business fell £1 million to £2.4 million.

Mr Odgers said the construction division had not chased extremely low or negative margin contracts, and this had reduced forward workload by 25 per cent. There was little sign of sustained recovery until 1993.

Homes managed sales of 1,189 units, similar to that of 1990. No substantial improvement in the market is expected, but better operating results are forecast because of improved quality and profitability of the land bank.

In minerals, immediate improvement is not expected, and Mr Odgers has forecast a "difficult year" in 1992. The American business was hit by recession, and despite government plans to spend more on roads, the current year would be tough.

McAlpine shares gained 11p to 204p.

Philips in profit but cuts continue

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN KÖLN

PHILIPS will make more employees redundant and dispose of further businesses in 1992, despite last year's return to profitability. In 1991, the group undertook one of the most drastic job-cutting programmes ever seen in European industry.

In an attempt to strengthen its precarious financial position, Philips will not pay a dividend for the second year running. The decision has shocked many financial analysts, who had hoped for at least a token payout.

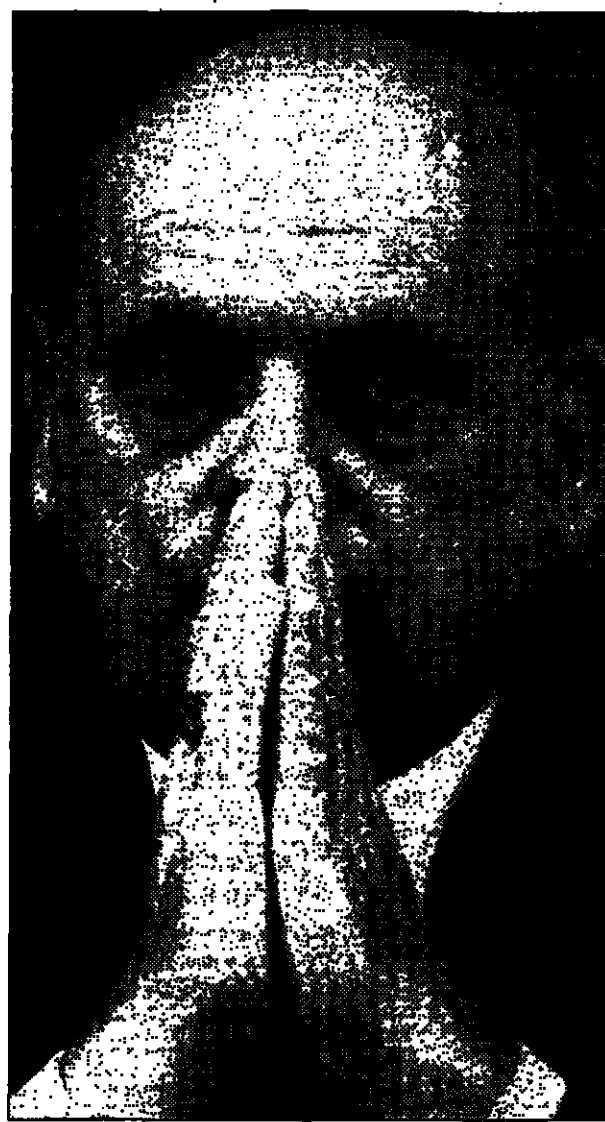
Lower staff costs helped the Dutch consumer electronics group to make a net profit of 1.2 billion guilders (£372 million) in 1991, compared with a £1.424 billion loss in 1990. The results justify cautious optimism about the recovery prospects of Europe's electronics industry, the fortunes of which have turned sour since the Eighties.

Jan Timmer, Philips' president, said he was content with the company's achievement over the past year, but added that Philips was "still far removed" from where it wanted to be.

He promised further divestments, though he said that did not mean whole divisions would close. Despite the fact that 47,400 jobs have been cut since the fourth quarter of 1990, the company gave a warning that "further adjustments to the size of the workforce will be required in organisational units where productivity improvement is lacking".

The depressed state of the world economy could not have come at a worse time for Philips' restructuring programme, codenamed Operation Centurion. Operating income of consumer electronics, the company's largest division, halved to £1 billion, though other sectors gained.

Mr Timmer told a news conference: "Of course we are disappointed by this. We had not expected a decline of the



Stern taskmaster: Jan Timmer, president

kind that we experienced in the consumer electronics industry." The company also said that "the economic outlook in a number of countries where Philips conducts a significant part of its business is not favourable". Economic revival in those countries could probably not be expected this year. Against that background, "only a limited increase in sales and net income" could be expected.

The financial weakening of the consumer electronics business comes at a time of heavy investments in new

technologies, including high-definition and flat-screen television and the digital compact cassette.

The return to profitability of the components and semiconductor business is important, since Philips is not only Europe's largest company in the field but the only European representative among the world's leading ten companies.

Mr Timmer predicted that the software side of the business might contribute between 25 and 30 per cent of sales within ten years.

Allied sells drinks business in Spain

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH

ALLIED-LYONS is continuing the restructuring of its Hiram Walker Group drinks business with the sale of its Spanish brandy and distribution interests in Spain to Pedro Domecq for £50 million in cash and shares.

The group says the agreement is consistent with Hiram Walker's strategy of focusing on premium international brands while increasing its ownership of strong local companies that are the key to successful distribution of its brands in national markets.

Hiram Walker's Spanish brandy interests have traditionally been priced at the lower end of the market. The main brand is Centenario. Domecq has distributed Hiram Walker brands, including Ballantine's whisky, Courvoisier cognac, Beefeater gin and Kahula, in Spain and Mexico for many years.

Allied received around £25 million in cash and the rest in shares. After the deal, which is due for completion on March 3, Hiram Walker will directly own 5.66 per cent of Domecq as well as half of the 53 per cent of Domecq held by Hiram Walker Europa, a Spanish joint venture with the Mora-Figueroa family, taking its share of the Spanish business to just over 32 per cent. Domecq is a private Spanish company in the spirits and wine industry with a turnover of 145 billion pesetas (£800 million) and pre-tax profits of £71 million. Last year, the business sold 21 million cases. It is the market leader in Mexico.

Tony Hales, chief executive of Allied Lyons, said: "This agreement cements a very important strategic alliance with a company that features strongly in Hiram Walker's plans for the development of its Latin American markets while, at the same time, allowing management to concentrate on the development of Hiram Walker's premium brand portfolio in key worldwide markets." Allied's shares rose 7p to 640p.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Lloyd's panel will investigate losses

LYOYD'S is setting up a review panel to investigate the £92 million losses of two syndicates, managed by Devonshire Underwriting Agencies, that were hit by losses from the LMX reinsurance spiral. The scope of the panel includes the 1989 and 1990 years of syndicates 216 and 833. The panel is headed by Anthony Blake, a partner at Neville Russell, the accountant, and includes one active and one retired underwriter.

This three-man team will report to the Council of Lloyd's. It has no power to investigate alleged illegality or misconduct. Trevor James, the chairman of the Devonshire Names Action Group, said there was some disappointment that Lloyd's had not appointed an independent lawyer to chair the panel.

House of glass, page 21

Skipton dives 60%

THE Skipton Building Society's pre-tax profits slumped by 60 per cent last year from £32.1 million to £11.5 million after it made £23 million of provisions for bad debt. Over 60 per cent of the provisions were for commercial loans for small hotels and licensed premises made before 1990. The society now restricts this type of lending to professional offices. The society's assets grew by 22 per cent to £2.7 billion during the year and it lent £573 million. John Goodfellow, chief executive, said: "During a recession, the results may be regarded as quite acceptable."

Bellwinch cuts loss

BELLWINCH, the south of England housebuilder, reduced pre-tax losses from last year's provision-laden £13.6 million to £385,000 in the six months to end-December. Turnover declined to £6.01 million, against £8.82 million last time. Interest charges were £500,000 (£1.77 million) and the company said the financial reconstruction completed in January will "greatly reduce" interest costs in the second half. Gearing now stands at 33 per cent. The loss per share is 1.2p, compared with a deficit of 38.3p per share last time. Once again there is no interim dividend.

Trusts raise payouts

FOREIGN & Colonial, the world's largest investment trust, lifted its dividend by 10 per cent to 3.19p for 1991. The second interim payout was 2.12p (1.9p). The trust achieved a 6.6 per cent net asset outperformance of the FT all-share index. Net assets per share at the year end were 184.5p.

Murray International Trust said that it had achieved a 27.9 per cent return last year, compared with 20.8 per cent for the FT all-share index. A final 3.4p (3.36p) dividend makes a total of 10.9p (10.2p) for the year. The company also announced a 1992 interim dividend of 7.9p.

Pensions probe urged

THE Institute of Actuaries has called for a government inquiry into safeguarding occupational pension funds. Revelations about losses from the Mirror Group pension funds show that an inquiry is needed urgently before the law can be changed, the institute says. Under present law, actuaries must be appointed for any schemes contracted out of the state earnings-related pension scheme. The institute suggests actuaries could check schemes to ensure that investments are likely to produce the returns necessary to provide the benefits promised.

071-481 3024

INTERNATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

FAX 071-481 9313
071-782 7828

The A.P. Moller Group operates under the MAERSK name and has offices and representatives in 50 countries and has 25,000 employees worldwide.

The A.P. Moller Group's primary activity is shipping. The A.P. Moller fleet numbers some 150 ships, with a total of almost 7,000,000 tons deadweight including tankers, liners, container vessels (Maersk Line), bulk and special vessels, supply ships and about 40 drilling rigs.

The Group is also engaged in shipbuilding, aviation, industry, supermarkets, EDP services, etc.



Petroleum/Stimulation Engineer Copenhagen, Denmark

Scope of work:

Maersk Oil og Gas AS are currently pioneering stimulation technology in oil and gas developments in the Danish part of the North Sea. Most of the stimulation work is conducted in horizontal wells, where Maersk Oil og Gas AS have placed more massive hydraulic sand fractures than any other operator. Due to the success of the treatments and the continuing development of the fields we require an additional engineer to join our stimulation team.

You must be able to work within a team as well as independently in a field environment. Main emphasis will be on planning, execution and evaluation of well stimulation activities, most of which will be performed from purpose built North Sea stimulation vessels.

Maersk Oil og Gas AS is a company in the A.P. Moller Group acting as exploration, development and production operator for Dansk Undergrunds Consortium (DUC), a venture between A.P. Moller 39%, SHELL 46% and TEXACO 15%. DUC has considerable acreage in the Danish North Sea with an average daily production of about 140,000 BOPD and 360 MMcf/d. Maersk Oil is the sole producer in Denmark and DUC, production corresponds to the total oil and gas consumption in Denmark.

Maersk Oil is presently operating 5 jack-up rigs offshore Denmark and is conducting extensive 2D and 3D seismic acquisition campaigns in order to delineate existing and future fields, to optimise field development and to define potential exploration targets.

Maersk Oil's activities include exploitation of low permeability oil and gas chalk reservoirs in the Danish North Sea. In this connection Maersk Oil is at the forefront in the development of horizontal well technology. The fields are produced both under primary depletion and with pressure support by gas and water injection.

Maersk Oil is also engaged in international exploration activities.

MAERSK OIL OG GAS AS

Esplanaden 50 · DK-1263 Copenhagen K · Denmark

You will also be involved in study work aimed at improving the stimulation process. Liaison with the Drilling and Production Departments on stimulation matters will be required.

You will be based at our Copenhagen main office. We offer a competitive package for relocation and remuneration.

Qualifications:

- A degree in a relevant engineering subject.
- A minimum of 5 years industry experience involving stimulation work.

Applicants are asked to send a full C.V. to the Personnel Department at: Maersk Oil og Gas AS, Esplanaden 50, DK-1263 Copenhagen K, Denmark

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WORLD MARITIME UNIVERSITY

The World Maritime University (WMU) is established under the auspices of the International Maritime Organization, a specialized agency of the United Nations. Located in Malmö, Sweden, WMU has a student population of 200 - primarily from developing countries - engaged in full-time specialized maritime studies leading to the award of M.Sc. The working language of the University is English.

LIBRARIAN

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for appointment to the position of Librarian. The University Library comprises some 8,000 volumes and 270 periodicals.

The Librarian is responsible to the Vice-Rector for all University library operations including: collection development, library services and information systems, budgeting and planning, staff supervision, acquisition and processing of new materials, user education and training of library staff.

The successful candidate will have an appropriate degree and several years of professional experience in an academic or special library, preferable including a maritime collection. Familiarity with library automation, fluency in the English language and demonstrated leadership skills will be prerequisites for the position. Experience, and ability to work in, an international organization in a multicultural setting would be an advantage.

The appointment will be on a two-year fixed term contract basis, commencing in May 1992, or as soon thereafter as the successful candidate is available. Annual salary, which is exempt from Swedish taxation, will be dependent on qualifications and experience but will be on a scale of USD 38,568 - by annual increments of 3% - to USD 48,864. In addition an amount equivalent to two months salary will be placed in a Provident Fund annually.

Applications must be received by 20 March 1992 and should be addressed to the Personnel Officer, World Maritime University, P.O. Box 500, S-201 24 Malmö, Sweden from whom further information on conditions of service may be obtained. Queries on the duties and responsibilities of the position may be directed to the Rector. Tel: +46 40 356300.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN

Applications are invited by the Governing Body of the College for the following full-time statutory post:

Professorship of Law

(Ref: 25/92)

Prior to application, further information (including application procedure) may be obtained from the Personnel Officer, University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4 (quoting above reference). Telephone enquiries: (+353-1) 2693244 exts. 1412/1653. FAX (+353-1) 2694409.

The closing date for receipt of completed applications is Thursday, 30 April 1992. U.C.D. is an equal opportunities employer.

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If you feel you meet these requirements please send your C.V. to Mrs. Anita Bridgman, noting your recent remuneration and a telephone number where we can contact you to arrange interviews.

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Please forward CV, photograph & selection of portfolio to P.O. Box 7684, Closing Date Friday 20 March 1992

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Selected candidate will be in charge of all technical tasks such as: structural/mechanical design, preparation of drawings, specification of materials and equipment, selection of machinery, equipment, power and hydraulic systems. In addition the selected candidate will also be responsible for training and supervising staff. The successful candidate must have a minimum of 5 years experience in metal fabrication and must be able to speak/understand Arabic and English. Please forward CV to: Mr. M. Al-Sayid, P.O. Box 1111, Jeddah 21511, Saudi Arabia. Tel: (02) 544.88.11. Closing date for applications is 20 March 1992.

WWF EUROPE (WORLD WIDE FUND FOR NATURE)

The leading international environmental organisation is looking for a PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT MANAGER. WWF requires a senior executive to fill this new post in its European Office located in Brussels. The main functions of the post are to coordinate and manage the development of WWF's European programme and to help secure new income. The successful candidate should have strong project management experience at a senior level, preferably in a developing country. Preference will be given to candidates who have previous experience of working with governmental agencies including the European Commission. Fluency in English and one other European language is required. Please apply with full CV to: Mr. M. Al-Sayid, P.O. Box 1111, Jeddah 21511, Saudi Arabia. Tel: (02) 544.88.11. Closing date for applications is 20 March 1992.

British Gas likely to peg domestic prices

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Gas is set to freeze or reduce charges to domestic customers this year after recording pre-tax historic cost profits of £1.71 billion in the year to December 31.

Robert Evans, the chairman, said he did not "see there being any changes" in domestic tariffs from April 1. Sir James McKinnon, the gas industry regulator, predicted a fall in household bills of up to 2 per cent.

The stabilisation of domestic tariffs will reflect the effect of a new price formula that greatly tightens the controls on British Gas.

Henceforth, the group faces a new level of regulation and competition in much of its core business of gas supply in Britain.

Backed by a report from the Office of Fair Trading and the threat of a reference to the monopolies commission, Sir James has won agreement by British Gas to reduce its share of the firm industrial market to 40 per cent. Last year, on average, competitors accounted for just 5 per cent of the market, Mr Evans said.

By yesterday, their share was 30 per cent. The changes in competition and regulation combine with an alteration in British Gas's year end from March to December to make any evaluation of the company's financial progress in 1991 difficult.

The difficulty is compounded by the inclusion of the first set of full year results from Consumers Gas, the Canadian supply business.

Mr Evans said it was impossible to split out comparable figures for the year to end-December 1990. However, British Gas had had a good year, he said. "The financial results for 1991 are encouraging when viewed against the recession and the impact of increasing competition."

The board said it would have recommended a nominal dividend of 13.4p, against 12.5p in the year to end-March 1991, had it not shortened this year. In practice, the company is paying a final dividend of 6p, bringing the total for the nine months to December to 10.25p. Sales, at £10.5 billion, benefited from the inclusion of the Consumers' business. But there was also remarkably strong growth in the British supply business. UK gas supply turnover increased 6 per cent to £8.42 billion. Tariff gas sales volume rose by 5.5 per cent, and there was a small rise in the price of gas.

Although the weather was colder last year than in 1990, it remained a little milder than "normal", costing British Gas £40 million in lost profit. Corrected for temperature variations, the company said underlying growth was almost 3 per cent.

The number of UK supply employees fell by 1,400, to 74,000, as British Gas began to separate its transmission business and improve efficiency under pressure from the regulator.

Exploration and production activities are planned to take over as the engine of growth as pressures grow on UK gas supply. British Gas has just begun its first oil production in a Russian joint venture, and has agreed to develop a Tunisian gas field.

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Encouraged: Robert Evans said results were good in view of the recession

DTI report censures the Stock Exchange

By GEORGE SIVELL

DEPARTMENT OF Trade and Industry inspectors have said the Stock Exchange can "justifiably be criticised" for approving a November 1988 circular from BOM, an oil and gas company that went into liquidation in 1990.

The inspectors say that "in approving a circular in which inadequate disclosure had been made, the conduct of the Stock Exchange fell below the standard expected of it in carrying out its function of protecting investors".

They point out that the BOM circular, detailing a £15.7 million rights issue, was approved by a young employee who had recently

graduated from university. "We are surprised at the degree of responsibility placed on such junior staff," the inspectors say.

The cash call prompted comment in the national press, which resulted in the Stock Exchange re-examining the case. The inspectors said: "Once the inadequacy of disclosure in BOM's circular had been drawn to its attention, the Stock Exchange acted properly."

The inspectors say the failure by the Exchange to identify inadequacies in the draft circular extinguished any chance BOM had of surviving as a listed company.

Nadir court move fails

ASIL Nadir, former chairman of Polly Peck International, yesterday failed to halt moves by leading creditors to have him jailed for allegedly breaking a court undertaking. It is claimed that he secretly sold shares in the Turkish bank Impek worth more than £16 million.

The Inland Revenue and eight banks and stockbrokers claim that Mr Nadir, who

also faces criminal charges of theft and false accounting involving up to £200 million, arranged the sale, in December 1990, in breach of a court promise given a month earlier not to dispose of his assets.

Mr Justice Knox pointed out that another judge had already decided against Mr Nadir and the matter could not be reopened. Mr Nadir was given leave to appeal.

Williams could bid for Chubb

By MARTIN WALLER

WILLIAMS Holdings, the diversified conglomerate, on unveiling results for 1991 hinted that it might bid for Chubb, the Racial Electronics subsidiary, once it is demerged.

The company has a 10 per cent stake in Racial Electronics, after the failure of a hostile bid last year, but says it would be "commercially imprudent" to sell the shares now "in the light of commitments made by Racial management with regard to performance improvements and the demerger of Chubb".

The remarks prompted suggestions that Williams may attempt to use the holding to buy Chubb. Williams, one of the first in the conglomerates and industrial materials sector to report 1991 figures, said pre-tax profits rose £50 million to £168.3 million. Much of the rise came from a ten-month contribution from Yale & Vale, the locks business bought for shares last year.

Earnings per share were up 1p to 22.8p. A final dividend of 7.35p makes 12.35p (12p). The shares fell 12p to 31.3p.

Tempus, page 20

Courtaulds Textiles rises 4.7%

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

COURTAULDS Textiles, demerged from Courtaulds in 1990, has produced its second year of pre-tax profit growth. The group has taken decisive action during the recession to cut costs, which has led to the loss of 5,600 jobs.

Courtaulds Textiles increased pre-tax profits by 4.7 per cent to £42.2 million in 1991, although operating profits were static at £53 million. There was an increased exceptional charge of £4.7 million, up from £1.3 million, for the costs of rationalising the business. Turnover fell from £984 million to £922 million and earnings per share rose from 30.9p to 31.1p. The final dividend is 8.8p, which makes 13p for the year, an increase of 5.7 per cent.

Debt has been reduced from £74.6 million to £35.6 million, giving gearing of 14.1 per cent. The main reason for the large fall in borrowings was the group's strong cash flow during 1991. The interest charge subsequently fell by 47 per cent to £6.3 million. There was an extraordinary charge, of £13.6 million.

Members ousted in SE revolution

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

FROM the end of next month, nobody will be able to be a member of the London Stock Exchange, completing a six-year revolution that has reversed 200 years of tradition. Instead, a professional body is being set up with a wider range of potential membership.

Until the Eighties, the exchange was formed essentially of individual British members and partnerships with unlimited liability. As part of the 1986 Big Bang changes, corporations from round the world joined and individual members voted away their ownership and voting rights.

Finally, the newcomers have decided, via a vote of the exchange's board, to eject the remaining 5,190 individual members. Instead, they will be offered membership, at a modest £100 a year, of the Securities Institute, a new professional body initially sponsored by the exchange and by the Securities and Futures Authority, the securities houses regulator.

The institute, which is sending its prospectus to individual SE members, member firms and others this

weekend, is to be chaired by Graham Ross Russell, former deputy chairman of the exchange. The plan is to make it a professional body like accountancy institutes, with professional standards and disciplinary machinery.

The former professional membership exams will become the institute's own. It will also run the basic competence examinations necessary for employees of securities firms to be registered under the Financial Services Act.

Once the institute builds its membership by the open offer to SE members and experienced practitioners, professional examination will become its entry qualification. It hopes members will be attracted from corporate finance and fund management. Institute membership will not be compulsory but it is hoped the institute will have sufficient status to attract experienced practitioners.

□ The exchange board approved in principle improved disclosure of big trades on Senq International, its system for institutional trading of international shares.

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

ELECO HOLDINGS (Int)
Pre-tax: £1.16m (£2.24m)
EPS: 2.8p (4.9p)
Div: 2.3p (2.3p)

GRAFTON GROUP (Fin)
Pre-tax: £3.55m (£5.18m)
EPS: 17.1p (22.9p)
Div: 3.75p, mkg 6.25p

WHINNEY MACKAY
Pre-tax: £119,000
EPS: 0.7p (1.3p)
Div: Nil (0.75p)

SCOTTISH INV. TRUST
Pre-tax: £2.92m (£3.7m)
EPS: N/A
NAV: 206.8p (206.2p)

GREEN PROPERTY (Fin)
Pre-tax: £1.7m (£1.47m)
EPS: 8.42p (8.01p)
Div: 2.6p, mkg 3.8p

Turnover fell to £26.4m (£29.8m). Extraordinary debit of £435,000. Further progress is expected in medium-term debt reduction.

All figures are in Irish currency. Last time's total dividend was 6p. Interest payments were £1.25m (£264,000), with gearing at 51%. Interim results. Last time's profit was £167,000. The company said increased competitive pressures will affect volumes and margins.

Results are for three months to end-January. Gross investment income slipped to £5.1m (£5.72m) in the first quarter.

The best laser printers in the world.

THE ULTIMATE CHALLENGE

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Not only is the HP LaserJet family a very gift-ed one, it's a complete one to meet your every need. The latest addition is the HP LaserJet III. It puts LaserJet print quality where you want it - on your desk. Then there's the industry standard HP LaserJet II and its big brother

the III with its superb paper handling ability. For quality allied to the speed modern business demands - an outstanding 16 pages a minute - HP LaserJet III has no rival.

Any of them will make your work look brilliant.

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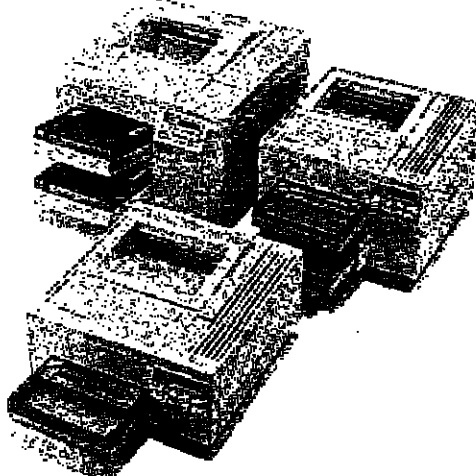
THE POSSIBILITY MADE REALITY.

You'll notice that we haven't added a modest "probably". Because if you want the best in laser printers, the Hewlett-Packard LaserJet is undoubtedly it.

Today, over 3 million HP LaserJet printers are sharpening company images around the world, producing stunning results time after time.

What keeps these remarkable machines way ahead of the competition is clever new ideas. Lots of them. Like Resolution Enhancement Technology. Developed by Hewlett-Packard, it ensures lines so sharp, curves so smooth and blacks so black, that documents look as though they've been typeset.

HP LaserJets also use HP's PCL5 advanced printer language. This latest generation language allows new, fast vector graphics and a range of scalable fonts that enable you to turn even the most mundane document into a thing of beauty.



TEMPUS

Even so, £200 million is possible this year, mostly tax free due to the bank's accumulated losses and unrelieved advance corporation tax, implying a p/e ratio of



ies. Losses on this class of business totalled £257 million in the year, although this figure was inflated by about £160 million because of an accounting change an-

play, in that any progress will come only with a recovery, so the decision to buy now or later must depend on the individual investor's view on the economy.

Pre-tax losses at Kleen-e-zz Holdings, the direct marketing group, fell to £1.14 million in the year to end-August (£4.28 million loss). The loss per share is 16.73p (58.82p deficit). Again no dividend is proposed. The shares rose 5p to 55p.

Full-year figures from **British Gas** were given a lukewarm reception. The shares clawed back an early markdown to finish unchanged at 258p. Cautious comments clouded an otherwise robust profit performance from **Williams Holdings**. The price fell 12p to 313p. Overnight buying on Wall Street lifted **WPP**, the debt-laden advertising agency, 20p to 100p. **Medeva**, the fast-growing pharmaceuticals group, added another 12p to 288p.

veto by the president. MFN status, which is renewed annually, allows Chinese goods to enter at minimum tariffs. This is vital to Hong Kong

□ Tokyo — Prices closed slightly weaker after aimless meandering. The Nikkei index was down 31.07 points at 21,333.70. (Reuter)

ISSUES	
Usher-Walker (RFD 1/1/92) 160	...
RIGHTS ISSUES	
BTP 10p N/P (205)	19 - 1
Brownstone Industries N/P (105)	14
ECC Group N/P (615)	66-13
Forvald 2p N/P (115)	16
Senior Engineering 10p N/P (58)	11
Wannomies N/P (350)	47
Wentling, So-N/P (30)	4 - 1

British Gas

COMMENT

ICI runs hard to keep moving

Sir Denis Henderson had two contrasting tales to tell yesterday. The first was that the group's restructuring and repositioning programme is on track to save £400 million of costs, simplify the business and move out of no-growth areas. The second, less appetising, was that there is virtually no sign of any improvement in the climate for mainstream bulk and specialty chemicals and that there is nothing to suggest that recovery here will be anything but late and slow. With sales now spread round the world, ICI is no longer much of a bellwether of the British economy, but offers a glimpse of prospects for industrial countries as a whole that is discouraging.

Underlying growth in the pharmaceutical business, plus the momentum of cost savings, should push ICI's pre-tax profits comfortably back above £1 billion this year without much recovery elsewhere. Any proof of the group's boast that it is in a different, leaner and more growth-oriented shape is now likely to have to wait until 1993 and beyond. Until profits are up to £1.5 billion, the arguments over the group will therefore continue to rage. So far, it is evident that there are no sacred cows, not even capital spending. Manufacture of advanced materials has virtually been stopped to stem losses from one supposed high-growth sector, but another small area, the manufacture of Quorn, is being backed with a £37 million factory expansion. Repositioning is therefore not a one-way street. Factories are being closed in Brazil but opened in Japan. Successful businesses such as paint, where ICI is the world leader, are being built up by acquisition. Plastics, fibres and further bulk chemical business could go altogether. ICI has also realised that it is not necessarily big enough to go it alone in new developments, though partnerships have so far been mostly on a modest scale. The desultory search for a pharmaceutical alliance does not seem to have progressed far.

Much of the fat identified by Lord Hanson and others is being cut away, but the imbalance of the group remains. In 1991, the two bioscience divisions accounted for two thirds of trading profits, though that will fall when the chemical cycle recovers. Ironically, the predominance of pharmaceuticals is now recognised in ICI's investment rating. Its shares sell at 17 times historic earnings, far enough considering the recovery potential in other parts of the group. The dividend yield of 5.7 per cent tells another story. When recovery is complete, the old questions about the group's structure will return.

Absent trends

No news is good news for Britain's trade figures. Treasury ministers will feel. The switch away from Customs-based figures for trade between Britain and other EC countries from the beginning of next year will leave a gap of at least six months in the most sensitive area of payments deficit. Even when enhanced VAT returns take over, full trade figures may well be late since, even after planned changes, monthly VAT returns will still only be required from the biggest payers. Transitional overlapping systems were rejected in Britain as an undue burden on business. This fits in nicely with the government's desire to downgrade trade figures and an old Whitehall desire to issue only quarterly figures.

The balance of payments remains an important indicator of the economy. As yesterday's poor January returns show, trade is in a poor state for the bottom of a recession. If the deficit is so big now, recovery will lead either to a quick upturn in inflation or export of jobs on a massive scale.

Three years of severe losses at Lloyd's have brought on anguish and set name against name. Jonathan Prynn reports on the fallout

If any group of people is held in lower esteem than the press by the Lloyd's of London establishment, it is politicians. Three times in the past year, the entry of the market into the political arena has unleashed a wave of unwelcome tabloid, television and radio interest in a story that does not normally emerge beyond the specialist business pages.

The first occasion was in March last year when John Redwood, the corporate affairs minister, disclosed that the Serious Fraud Office was considering an enquiry into Lloyd's. Three months later there was a political storm over lobbying by a group of names, who also happened to be Conservative MPs, for tax breaks for the market. The latest parliamentary onslaught, and by far the most serious, bringing criticism of Lloyd's for its management and market practices from both sides of the Commons, centres on claims of widespread malpractice amounting to "structural rottenness".

Few, if any, of the allegations made in the House of Commons, and widely reported in the media over the past two weeks, are new. More than a dozen action groups of devastated names ready to organise and pursue legal actions have been banging the same drum since 1990. Many are extremely well organised, producing a stream of statistical data to back up their allegations that Lloyd's is effectively rigged against the outside names in favour of the insiders. Taking the grievances to parliament was no more than the next logical lobbying step, particularly as some 60 MPs are themselves names, many suffering substantial personal losses.

Using the information compiled by the names, the MPs, led by Paul Marland, the member for Gloucestershire West, tabled a list of 13 hostile questions that amount to a dossier of incompetence, complacency and malpractice.

Not surprisingly, though perhaps belatedly, Lloyd's has finally engaged in a little homework of its own to produce counter statistics to defuse some of the more serious allegations made in the Marland document. The responses, compiled in a bulky handbook that Lloyd's is to circulate widely in the market, were presented to a deputation of action group heads and MPs at a meeting with David Coleridge, Lloyd's chairman, earlier this week.

The thrust of the allegations is that insiders, names who work at Lloyd's as underwriters, agents, brokers or back-up staff, have enjoyed preferential access to the most profitable syndicates, while the vast majority of names, those who do not work at Lloyd's, have been dumped on syndicates known to be of lower



Gathering storm: allegations that Lloyd's is rigged against outside names will not go away

quality and therefore more likely to produce significant losses. Impressive statistical and anecdotal evidence has been produced to support the claim, including a list of profitable syndicates where more than 60 per cent of the underwriting capacity is provided by insiders.

It also provides an analysis of some of the membership of some of the most disastrously loss-making syndicates, claiming to show them stuffed to the gills with hapless outside names. For example, Feltrim 540, which has produced losses in excess of 100 per cent of capacity from 1987 to 1989, and probably in 1990 as well, is shown to have had only 91 working members in 1988 out of a total of 1,457 names.

The now well established names' grapevine constantly hums with horror stories of widows and cancer victims who were "persuaded" by agents to join or increase their underwriting on Feltrim, or other syndicates, such as Gooda Walker or Rose Thomson Young, that subsequently went disastrously wrong. In such a charged atmosphere it is unlikely that names will have much time for Lloyd's response.

Nevertheless, there is another side to the story. As Lloyd's points out in its response to the Marland questions, all syndicates attracted vast numbers of new outside names dur-

ing the Seventies and Eighties, as record profits and tax advantages sucked in the new wealth being created during the period. Many of the syndicates most successful in winning support from outside names were the same specialist excess-of-loss reinsurance syndicates that later went on to cause the names such grief.

On paper, these were profitable syndicates that had always earned a good return for their names, although there is evidence to suggest that the profits of earlier years were greatly overstated because of under-reserving. They also had the added advantage that they were less exposed to old-year deterioration because of the short-tail nature of the business. In other words, if no major catastrophe occurred in a particular year of account, the syndicate was very likely to be "clean" and the year could therefore be closed.

Lloyd's also points out that the accounts of the excess-of-loss syndicates explained to names the nature of their underwriting. Some insiders at Lloyd's also claim that at least one of the now discredited excess-of-loss underwriters made it very clear to members' agents that the type of underwriting he was involved in meant that it was inevitable that

sooner or later the syndicate would suffer a huge loss. This of course happened when an unprecedented series of catastrophe losses ripped through the market from 1987 on.

Lloyd's is attempting to refute the allegation that insiders created off the best business for themselves by excluding outside names from the safest and best-performing syndicates. Lloyd's claims that the figures used in the Marland document are based on "selective data" and that "it is possible on a similarly selective basis to find cases where certain syndicates with good records have a heavier concentration of external names to working names".

Lloyd's points out that in two of the years between 1986 and 1988 "the average return to an external name marginally exceeded the average return to a working name". Between 1985 and 1988, the average annual returns to all working names and all external names were virtually identical at 2.5 per cent and 2.3 per cent respectively. The response also rejects the notion of a "safe" syndicate. "All insurance is a risk business in which losses can be made as well as profits," it claims, adding that "historical performance is no guaranteed indicator of likely future performance".

The response smacks of the pot house-line, and will give no succour

to those names who were enticed into Lloyd's by its reputation as well as the rewards, only to find themselves bankrupted three or four times over.

There is little doubt that Lloyd's is to some extent an insider's market, perhaps the last of its kind in the City. The geography of the Lloyd's building alone, with brokers flitting from box to box like bees disseminating the pollen of market gossip, makes this all but inevitable. If you throw in the traditional public school clubbiness of the market, combined with the pitiful ignorance of the majority of names about the conduct of their affairs at Lloyd's, the information imbalance between inside and outside names is guaranteed. Whether that information has been used cynically and systematically to disadvantage the outsiders is another question and the case remains to be proved. A hit squad of distinguished public figures, including Sir Patrick Neill, QC, and Sir David Walker, the chairman of the Securities and Investments Board, is now engaged in investigating these claims, and no firm conclusions should be drawn until their findings are in the public domain.

Mr Marland asks the legitimate question of why Lloyd's allowed so many small investors to join with assets of only £100,000 during the mid-Eighties (increased to £250,000 in 1990). Once again, Lloyd's stock response is wheeled out, including the misleading point that "specifically excluded as an acceptable asset for means purpose is a candidate's principal private residence". A bank guarantee on that residence is acceptable, transferring responsibility for repossession, should it come to that, from Lloyd's to the banking system.

Few people at Lloyd's now deny that it was anything but a terrible mistake to allow such large numbers of small investors to flood into the market during the mid-Eighties. And, as in all financial markets during that period, be they property, securities, or insurance markets, ethical standards took a dive. There is enough anecdotal evidence available to suggest that substantial signing-up fees, paid to financial advisers introducing new and often wholly unsuitable names to Lloyd's, became commonplace.

The 13 responses add up to a robust attempt at a rebuttal of some of the charges that have been laid at the door of the market and Lloyd's obviously feels that, in the light of the favourable reaction to the Rowland taskforce report in January, it has the blueprint for a prosperous future. However, the accusations will not go away. As Alfred Doll-Steinberg, the chairman of one of the leading action groups, said after Mr Coleridge circulated the responses: "Whether insiders or outsiders were favoured is not really relevant. The main issue is the systemic failure at Lloyd's".

As cash call follows cash call and the writ pile up, the vision of dappled sunlight uplands laid out in the Rowland report is in danger of slipping out of view.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Banks' provisions need scrutiny

From Mr Martin Harris

Sir, In the light of the current round of annual figures from the four main banks, is it not time that their bad debt provisions came under far closer scrutiny from shareholders, customers and the Government? These provisions often turn into self-fulfilling prophecies, making it much easier for a bank to shut down a business than to take a more tempered judgement. There is also the banks' concept of viability to be considered; from their results, they are patently not able to make such decisions.

These are not "bad debt provisions" but bad management decisions and the banks are in a very privileged position in being able to offset these against their profits. Halving the allowable provisions for bad debts would concentrate their minds more on providing a service to their customers and acting in the interests of their shareholders. Their current performance begs the question whether they can be trusted

with handling the funds, and lives, of business and private customers without far closer controls and a thorough review of their accounting procedures.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN HARRIS,
4 Weyside Park,
Newman Lane,
Alton,
Hampshire.

From Mr G D Wilson

Sir, The banks bemoan the devastation to their profits due in part to bad lending. The full consequence of "departure from the principle of sound lending" (Business News, February 26) no-one outside the individual banks is likely to learn.

One wonders how much has successfully been passed on to others in the form of dishonoured cheques - vast sums no doubt.

Yours faithfully,
G D WILSON
11 Laverock Lane
Hove Edge
Brighton
West Yorkshire

Job loss recipe

From Mr Peter Kidson

Sir, The Charter of Employment Rights which the TUC would like to see implemented (Business News, February 18) will undoubtedly improve wages and other working conditions of those in employment.

In so doing, it must necessarily also raise the cost of labour to employers. This will in turn oblige businesses to cut back on their use of labour. Firms will respond to the charter by laying off some of their present workers, and cutting back if not cancelling any plans they might have to

employ new workers in new jobs in the future.

The basic mode of operation of this so-called Charter of Employment Rights will thus be to throw some people out of work in order to boost the wages of others. For the sake of the common weal, the sooner the TUC drops this project, the better.

Yours faithfully,
PETER KIDSON,
2 Robinscroft Mews,
Sparta Street,
Greenwich,
SE10.

Letters to The Times Business and Finance section can be sent by fax on 071-782 5112.

PowerGen's short-termism

From Mr David Potter

Sir, Sir Graham Day, chairman of PowerGen, states (Business News, February 21) that his directors are bound by law to act in the interests of the company and its shareholders, and this apparently means importing more foreign coal.

But is this not a short-term view of the interests of the company and its shareholders, let alone its employees? In the longer term, if British Coal is reduced to a ramp, not only will miners become unemployed but also many of those employed in the myriad of firms supplying goods, services and transport to the industry.

The effect will be a decline in the general economy of the country, reduced government income, increased government expenditure, higher taxation, a fall in the value of the pound, an increase in the sterling price of the imported coal and even a decline in the demand for electricity!

Surely the shareholders of PowerGen are also "shareholders" in "Great Britain Ltd." Think again, Sir Graham, and think longer.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID POTTER,
26 Fantiman Road,
SW8.

From Mr Alastair MacMillan

Sir, If importing cheap foreign coal will mean that more British coal will be left in the ground for the use of future generations, then it is to be encouraged.

Yours faithfully,
ALASTAIR MACMILLAN,
Langside Farm,
Kilmacoll,
Renfrewshire.

DTI's helping hand for small firms

From K.M. Taylor

Sir, Andrew Irvin (February 24) is quite correct in suggesting that small firms should take what he calls pre-emptive action now to save as many firms and jobs as possible. However, it is not true that such advice "tends to be expensive".

The DTI Enterprise Initiative provides small firms (under 200 employees) with from five to 15 days' grant-aided consultancy for business planning or marketing (and other disciplines). The

grant aid is at least 50 per cent and can be two thirds for firms in assisted or urban programme areas. It is an excellent scheme and has helped many firms throughout the UK to survive and thrive.

Firms needing help should ring their regional DTI office in the first instance. Yours faithfully,
K.M. TAYLOR,
Baker Tilly,
2 Bloomsbury St,
WC2.

Tungsten test

From Mr D H Walton FCMA

Sir, A very simple test for the state of the manufacturing sector of the economy would be to ascertain the week on week sale of ceramic and tungsten cutting tips. These small items are used in nearly every part of the industry and because of their high cost are closely controlled and usually purchased on a weekly or

sometimes daily basis. If industry is buying more, then they are producing more, if they are buying less then production has fallen.

Who needs a big pile of industrial census forms which are frequently inaccurate and always out of date?

Yours truly
DAVID H WALTON
10 St Guthlac's Close
Crowland
Lincolnshire

NEW INTEREST RATES

From 1st MARCH 1992

SPECIAL SHARES	GIRO CAR BONDS	NET CAR	NET
For investments of £25,000 or more	11.41	11.10	8.81
For investments of £10,000 or more	11.41	11.10	8.81
For investments of £5,000 or more	10.46	10.20	7.86
For investments of £2,500 or more	9.79	9.50	7.19
BENEFIT SHARES			
For investments of £25,000 or more	10.56	10.30	7.88
For investments of £10,000 or more	9.83	9.50	7.32
For investments of £5,000 or more	9.83	9.50	7.32
For investments of £2,500 or more	9.83	9.50	7.32
TRUST SHARES			
For investments of £25,000 or more	9.73	9.50	7.28
For investments of £10,000 or more	9.30	9.15	6.98
For investments of £5,000 or more	9.30	9.15	6.98
For investments of £2,500 or more	9.30	9.15	6.98
SHARE ACCOUNTS £1 min.			
For investments of £10,000 or more	9.00	8.80	6.78
For investments of £5,000 or more	8.84	8.70	6.62
For investments of £2,500 or more	8.84	8.70	6.62
For investments of £1,000 or more	8.84	8.70	6.62
For investments of £500 or more	8.84	8.70	6.62
For investments of £250 or more	8.84	8.70	6.62
For investments of £100 or more	8.84	8.70	6.62
For investments of £50 or more	8.84	8.70	6.62
For investments of £25 or more	8.84	8.70	6.62
For investments of £10 or more	8.84	8.70	6.62
For investments of £5 or more	8.84	8.70	6.62
For investments of £1 or more	8.84	8.70	6.62

Subject to the relevant conditions of sale in each case. In the absence of a valid contract, interest will be paid at the rate of 10% per annum. Interest will be paid on a monthly basis. Interest will be paid on a quarterly basis. Interest will be paid on a half-yearly basis. Interest will be paid on an annual basis. Interest will be paid on a bi-annual basis. Interest will be paid on a tri-annual basis. Interest will be paid on a quad-annual basis. Interest will be paid on a penta-annual basis. Interest will be paid on a hexa-annual basis. Interest will be paid on a hepta-annual basis. Interest will be paid on an octa-annual basis. Interest will be paid on a nona-annual basis. Interest will be paid on a deca-annual basis. Interest will be paid on a hendeca-annual basis. Interest will be paid on a duodecennial basis. Interest will be paid on a tredecennial basis. Interest will be paid on a quattuordecennial basis. Interest will be paid on a quindecennial basis. 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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

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Portfolio
PLATINUM

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began February 24. Dealings end March 6. \$Contango day March 9. Settlement day March 16. \$Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

[illegible]

25	Alfonso Herrera	42	1	0	3.2117
26	Adrian Saez	31	1	0	3.2117
27	BRYAN	44	1	7	48.133
54	Bela Paks	39	41	59	4.5
118	Barclay Court 129	100	100	0	0
78	Barry	39	135	53	14.2
70	17000	1800	250	19	140
100	200	215	250	19	140
103	Flexatide	156	15	13	15.6
8	AFICO	57	5	8	10.1
59	Irony Saez	132	1	0	3.2117
128	Lafayette	151	1	0	3.2117
86	Los Longshots	143	6	76	74
10	Los Longshots	143	6	76	74
3	Mac Home Loan	4	0	0	3.2117
21	Newmarket	27	80	38	16.6
12	North	20	0	0	3.2117
44	Bufford Est	11	0	0	3.2117
28	Silverman	30	1	0	3.2117

[illegible][illegible]

90	LWTG	276		50	25.9%
91	Mannix Does	181		50	
92	Police Story	174	+ 2	3.2	16.0
93	The Police Go	170		4.9	5.5
94	Prison Leverage	120		4.0	8.5
95	Police Story	117		4.0	8.5
222	Police Story	312		5.5	23.2%
96	San TV	773		10.0	30.1%
97	Stanley Lebar	213	- 1	4.8	10.4
98	Police Story	213		4.8	10.4
99	TV News	188		4.0	12.2
100	TV News	188		4.0	12.2
4	TYS	48	+ 2	1.0	0.2
101	TV News	188		4.0	12.2
102	TV News	188		4.0	12.2
103	TV News	188		4.0	12.2
104	TV News	188		4.0	12.2
105	TV News	188		4.0	12.2
106	TV News	188		4.0	12.2
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146	TV News	188		4.0	12.2
147	TV News	188		4.0	12.2
148	TV News	188		4.0	12.2
149	TV News	188		4.0	12.2
150	TV News	188		4.0	12.2

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING			
76	AP	143	704.1
101	AP-Sales	13	120.13
102	AP-Ad	4	120.13
175	AP-Ad	303	17.2
176	AP-Ad	4	17.2
177	AP-Ad	4	17.2
178	AP-Ad	4	17.2
179	AP-Ad	4	17.2
180	AP-Ad	4	17.2
181	AP-Ad	4	17.2
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194	AP-Ad	4	17.2
195	AP-Ad	4	17.2
196	AP-Ad	4	17.2
197	AP-Ad	4	17.2
198	AP-Ad	4	17.2
199	AP-Ad	4	17.2
200	AP-Ad	4	17.2

[illegible]

There were no valid claims for the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. The £4,000 will be added to today's competition.

1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	2101	2102	2103	2104	2105	2106	2107	2108	2109	2110	2111	2112	2113	2114	2115	2116	2117	2118	2119	2120	2121	2122	2123	2124	2125	2126	2127	2128	2129	2130	2131	2132	2133	2134	2135	2136	2137	2138	2139	2140	2141	2142	2143	2144	2145	2146	2147	2148	2149	2150	2151	2152	2153	2154	2155	2156	2157	2158	2159	2160	2161	2162	2163	2164	2165	2166	2167	2168	2169	2170	2171	2172	2173	2174	2175	2176	2177	2178	2179	2180	2181	2182	2183	2184	2185	2186	2187	2188	2189	2190	2191	2192	2193	2194	2195	2196	2197	2198	2199	2200	2201	2202	2203	2204	2205	2206	2207	2208	2209	2210	2211	2212	2213	2214	2215	2216	2217	2218	2219	2220	2221	2222	2223	2224	2225	2226	2227	2228	2229	2230	2231	2232	2233	2234	2235	2236	2237	2238	2239	2240	2241	2242	2243	2244	2245	2246	2247	2248	2249	2250	2251	2252	2253	2254	2255	2256	2257	2258	2259	2260	2261	2262	2263	2264	2265	2266	2267	2268	2269	2270	2271	2272	2273	2274	2275	2276	2277	2278	2279	2280	2281	2282	2283	2284	2285	2286	2287	2288	2289	2290	2291	2292	2293	2294	2295	2296	2297	2298	2299	2300	2301	2302	2303	2304	2305	2306	2307	2308	2309	2310	2311	2312	2313	2314	2315	2316	2317	2318	2319	2320	2321	2322	2323	2324	2325	2326	2327	2328	2329	2330	2331	2332	2333	2334	2335	2336	2337	2338	2339	2340	2341	2342	2343	2344	2345	2346	2347	2348	2349	2350	2351	2352	2353	2354	2355	2356	2357	2358	2359	2360	2361	2362	2363	2364	2365	2366	2367	2368	2369	2370	2371	2372	2373	2374	2375	2376	2377	2378	2379	2380	2381	2382	2383	2384	2385	2386	2387	2388	2389	2390	2391	2392	2393	2394	2395	2396	2397	2398	2399	2400	2401	2402	2403	2404	2405	2406	2407	2408	2409	2410	2411	2412	2413	2414	2415	2416	2417	2418	2419	2420	2421	2422	2423	2424	2425	2426	2427	2428	2429	2430	2431	2432	2433	2434	2435	2436	2437	2438	2439	2440	2441	2442	2443	2444	2445	2446	2447	2448	2449	2450	2451	2452	2453	2454	2455	2456	2457	2458	2459	2460	2461	2462	2463	2464	2465	2466	2467	2468	2469	2470	2471	2472	2473	2474	2475	2476	2477	2478	2479	2480	2481	2482	2483	2484	2485	2486	2487	2488	2489	2490	2491	2492	2493	2494	2495	2496	2497	2498	2499	2500	2501	2502	2503	2504	2505	2506	2507	2508	2509	2510	2511	2512	2513	2514	2515	2516	2517	2518	2519	2520	2521	2522	2523	2524	2525	2526	2527	2528	2529	2530	2531	2532	2533	2534	2535	2536	2537	2538	2539	2540	2541	2542	2543	2544	2545	2546	2547	2548	2549	2550	2551	2552	2553	2554	2555	2556	2557	2558	2559	2560	2561	2562	2563	2564	2565	2566	2567	2568	2569	2570	2571	2572	2573	2574	2575	2576	2577	2578	2579	2580	2581	2582	2583	2584	2585	2586	2587	2588	2589	2590	2591	2592	2593	2594	2595	2596	2597	2598	2599	2600	2601	2602	2603	2604	2605	2606	2607	2608	2609	2610	2611	2612	2613	2614	2615	2616	2617	2618	2619	2620	2621	2622	2623	2624	2625	2626	2627	2628	2629	2630	2631	2632	2633	2634	2635	2636	2637	2638	2639	2640	2641	2642	2643	2644	2645	2646	2647	2648	2649	2650	2651	2652	2653	2654	2655	2656	2657	2658	2659	2660	2661	2662	2663	2664	2665	2666	2667	2668	2669	2670	2671	2672	2673	2674	2675	2676	2677	2678	2679	2680	2681	2682	2683	2684	2685	2686	2687	2688	2689	2690	2691	2692	2693	2694	2695	2696	2697	2698	2699	2700	2701	2702	2703	2704	2705	2706	2707	2708	2709	2710	2711	2712	2713	2714	2715	2716	2717	2718	2719	2720	2721	2722	2723	2724	2725	2726	2727	2728	2729	2730	2731	2732	2733	2734	2735	2736	2737	2738	2739	2740	2741	2742	2743	2744	2745	2746	2747	2748	2749	2750	2751	2752	2753	2754	2755	2756	2757	2758	2759	2760	2761	2762	2763	2764	2765	2766	2767	2768	2769	2770	2771	2772	2773	2774	2775	2776	2777	2778	2779	2780	2781	2782	2783	2784	2785	2786	2787	2788	2789	2790	2791	2792	2793	2794	2795	2796	2797	2798	2799	2800	2801	2802	2803	2804	2805	2806	2807	2808	2809	2810	2811	2812	2813	2814	2815	2816	2817	2818	2819	2820	2821	2822	2823	2824	2825	2826	2827	2828	2829	2830	2831	2832	2833	2834	2835	2836	2837	2838	2839	2840	2841	2842	2843	2844	2845	2846	2847	2848	2849	2850	2851	2852	2853	2854	2855	2856	2857	2858	2859	2860	2861	2862	2863	2864	2865	2866	2867	2868	2869	2870	2871	2872	2873	2874	2875	2876	2877	2878	2879	2880	2881	2882	2883	2884	2885	2886	2887	2888	2889	2890	2891	2892	2893	2894	2895	2896	2897	2898	2899	2900	2901	2902	2903	2904	2905	2906	2907	2908	2909	2910	2911	2912	2913	2914	2915	2916	2917	2918	2919	2920	2921	2922	2923	2924	2925	2926	2927	2928	2929	2930	2931	2932	2933	2934	2935	2936	2937	2938	2939	2940	2941	2942	2943	2944	2945	2946	2947	2948	2949	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[illegible]

13	385	M & G	604	+ 4	180	42 16.7
13	88	Smith New Conn	96	+ 2	35	4.0 4.8
15	27	Shirley-Trek	59	40 5.4
FOODS						
15	421	All Food	432	..	..	4.0 8.8
13	26	ASDA Group	41	↑ + 1	2.1	6.0 10.0
13	51	Aldi Father	65	+ 3	3.7	7.7 9.3
15	234	Anyt	335	+ 5	..	3.5 15.3
19	32	Aslley Group	42	+ 0	1.9	6.2 5.8
19	112	Astac Fisheries	143	..	7.0	6.5 11.0

[illegible]

23	101	Power	102	...	8.5	112.21
24	1	Personnel	1	...	0.0	5.3 4.4
76	41	Personnel	41	...	7.3	3.4
99	71	File Indicator	76	...	4.9	8.6 7.0
293	293	Phone	389	+ 7.5	2.6	10.0
49	49	Phone	49	...	1.1	1.1
175	175	Phone	235	-15	4.0	11.5
50	50	Phone Group 1 to 50	50	...	2.3	6.1 8.2
58	58	Phone (Person)	58	...	3.6	8.3 23.5
256	256	Phone Group	329	...	0.8	12.0
36	36	CO2 Inc	85	...	7.7	11.5 8.9
147	147	CO2 Inc	339	...	20.5	8.1 18.3
64	64	CO2 Holdings	70	+ 3	4.1	11.2
85	85	CO2 Holdings	85	...	1.1	1.1

100	Commer	116	+	82	86	24	40
101	Commer	116	+	82	86	24	40
102	Commer	116	+	82	86	24	40
103	Commer	116	+	82	86	24	40
104	Commer	116	+	82	86	24	40
105	Commer	116	+	82	86	24	40
106	Commer	116	+	82	86	24	40
107	Commer	116	+	82	86	24	40
108	Commer	116	+	82	86	24	40
109	Commer	116	+	82	86	24	40
110	Commer	116	+	82	86	24	40
111	Commer	116	+	82	86	24	40
112	Commer	116	+	82	86	24	40
113	Commer	116	+	82	86	24	40
114	Commer	116	+	82	86	24	40
115	Commer	116	+	82	86	24	40
116	Commer	116	+	82	86	24	40
117	Commer	116	+	82	86	24	40
118	Commer	116	+	82	86	24	40
119	Commer	116	+	82	86	24	40
120	Commer	116	+	82	86	24	40
121	Commer	116	+	82	86	24	40
122	Commer	116	+	82	86	24	40
123	Commer	116	+	82	86	24	40
124	Commer	116	+	82	86	24	40
125	Commer	116	+	82	86	24	40
126	Commer	116	+	82	86	24	40
127	Commer	116	+	82	86	24	40
128	Commer	116	+	82	86	24	40
129	Commer	116	+	82	86	24	40
130	Commer	116	+	82	86	24	40
131	Commer	116	+	82	86	24	40
132	Commer	116	+	82	86	24	40
133	Commer	116	+	82	86	24	40
134	Commer	116	+	82	86	24	40
135	Commer	116	+	82	86	24	40
136	Commer	116	+	82	86	24	40
137	Commer	116	+	82	86	24	40
138	Commer	116	+	82	86	24	40
139	Commer	116	+	82	86	24	40
140	Commer	116	+	82	86	24	40
141	Commer	116	+	82	86	24	40
142	Commer	116	+	82	86	24	40
143	Commer	116	+	82	86	24	40
144	Commer	116	+	82	86	24	40
145	Commer	116	+	82	86	24	40
146	Commer	116	+	82	86	24	40
147	Commer	116	+	82	86	24	40
148	Commer	116	+	82	86	24	40
149	Commer	116	+	82	86	24	40
150	Commer	116	+	82	86	24	40
151	Commer	116	+	82	86	24	40
152	Commer	116	+	82	86	24	40
153	Commer	116	+	82	86	24	40
154	Commer	116	+	82	86	24	40
155	Commer	116	+	82	86	24	40
156	Commer	116	+	82	86	24	40
157	Commer	116	+	82	86	24	40
158	Commer	116	+	82	86	24	40
159	Commer	116	+	82	86	24	40
160	Commer	116	+	82	86	24	40
161	Commer	116	+	82	86	24	40
162	Commer	116	+	82	86	24	40
163	Commer	116	+	82	86	24	40
164	Commer	116	+	82	86	24	40
165	Commer	116	+	82	86	24	40
166	Commer	116	+	82	86	24	40

100	Wagon	377	+ 1	170	80	110
70	Walker's Gravel	50		7	7	12.6
165	Water Howard	250		6.2	4.5	11.7
124	Wascall	213	+ 2	2.5	10	18.5
185	Wetland Widge	20				
227	Weir	478	+ 4	9.3	20	17.6
104	Wellcome	1115			12	38.8
208	Wellman	35		2.2	8.4	5.7
9	Wedge	21				
373	Wedge	680	+ 2	7.7	24	13.9
121	Wheeler	271	+ 2			5.11.7
18	Whigam	21		20	12.7	11.2
77	Whitcomb	106			12.6	20.0
42	Widney	11				

[illegible]

943	De Beer	1365	-15	...	4.3	...
92	Diamond	108	1	...	37	9.1
274	Diamond	274	...	...	...	...
505	Diamond	630	+4	...	50	12.6
7	Dixie	...	...	...	...	...
166	Dixie	276	-10	...	...	...
128	Dixie	128	1	...	...	6.1
264	Dixie	369	-3	...	1.9	30
32	Dixie	41	-4	...	...	...
85	Dixie Gold	90	...	...	...	...
130	Dixie Prop	149	-1	...	...	...
946	Dixie	475	1	...	6.1	...
118	Dixie	...	...	...	...	...
245	Dixie	1122	-12	...	1.6	17.9

[illegible]

120	De Morgan	5			
121	Denton	120		5.5	5.7
122	Dewey-Higgs	440		8.2	2.5
123	Edwards Agency	213			3.2 23.6
124	Estes-Gott	85		3.7	50.35
125	Evans of Leeds	130		3.7	18.15
126	For Oaks	28			
127	Flower King	40	- 3	2.3	12.0
128	Flowers	37		13.8	5.8 32.0
129	Ginsberg	121		5.2	58.7
130	Go Portland	154	+ 2	10.0	8.7 13.0
131	Goyman	61	+ 2	5.2	11.6
132	Hayes	77			6.0 15.1
133	Hendall-Carr	42		0.0	0.2

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

29	202	23	13.0	8.0	82.2
30	202	23	13.0	8.0	82.2
31	202	23	13.0	8.0	82.2
32	202	23	13.0	8.0	82.2
33	202	23	13.0	8.0	82.2
34	202	23	13.0	8.0	82.2
35	202	23	13.0	8.0	82.2
36	202	23	13.0	8.0	82.2
37	202	23	13.0	8.0	82.2
38	202	23	13.0	8.0	82.2
39	202	23	13.0	8.0	82.2
40	202	23	13.0	8.0	82.2
41	202	23	13.0	8.0	82.2
42	202	23	13.0	8.0	82.2
43	202	23	13.0	8.0	82.2
44	202	23	13.0	8.0	82.2
45	202	23	13.0	8.0	82.2
46	202	23	13.0	8.0	82.2
47	202	23	13.0	8.0	82.2
48	202	23	13.0	8.0	82.2
49	202	23	13.0	8.0	82.2
50	202	23	13.0	8.0	82.2
51	202	23	13.0	8.0	82.2
52	202	23	13.0	8.0	82.2
53	202	23	13.0	8.0	82.2
54	202	23	13.0	8.0	82.2
55	202	23	13.0	8.0	82.2
56	202	23	13.0	8.0	82.2
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27	Woolen	244	1	2	10	3.8	14.5
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SHOES, LEATHER							
21	Acromagnum	26	0.5	24	24
37	Acromagnum	26	0.5	24	24
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13	Assessment	137	...	90	94	125
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4	Madrid	39	-	0.1	67	134
5	Barcelona	39	-	0.1	67	134
6	Seville	39	-	0.1	67	134
7	Valencia	39	-	0.1	67	134
8	Bilbao	39	-	0.1	67	134
9	Zaragoza	39	-	0.1	67	134
10	Palma de Mallorca	39	-	0.1	67	134
11	Granada	39	-	0.1	67	134
12	Malaga	39	-	0.1	67	134
13	San Sebastian	39	-	0.1	67	134
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TRANSPORT						
1	AAC	386	+5	7.2	24	16.0
2	BSA	365	+1	15.0	20	19.3
3	BP Airways	365	+3	10.0	20	19.3
4	Charters (P)	154	+11	8.0	45	8.7
5	Debonair	154	+11	8.0	45	8.7
6	Debonair	154	+11	8.0	45	8.7
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185	Aetna Inc.	181	3	16.7	229
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INFOTECH TIMES

Linking Russia into the telecom world

Last-minute modifications have been made to an antenna of a telecommunications satellite to provide additional coverage for Moscow and northeastern Russia.

When the second-generation satellite operated by the European Telecommunications Satellite Organisation (Eutelsat) was ordered in the 1980s, officials believed there was little point in offering coverage over the more easterly parts of the former Soviet Union.

The decision to alter one of the craft's two antennas follows the dramatic political, social and economic upheavals of the past year.

Now everybody from western oil companies to food distribution firms is vying, albeit tentatively, to exploit natural resources, develop new markets and forge joint ventures in the former communist nations.

Whether the schemes bear fruit will depend on many factors. One of the most

important will be the availability of reliable and inexpensive voice, data and facsimile communications between the fledgling enterprises and headquarters in the west, the Far East and the Middle East.

Satellite operators such as Eutelsat believe they are best placed to spearhead these links by encouraging the installation of satellite dishes known as very small aperture terminals (VSATs), that are between 1.8m and 2.4m in diameter.

Birgitta Naesland, a senior official at Eutelsat in Paris, said: "Fibre-optic cables are being built, but this takes quite a long time, whereas by using satellites we can increase capacity quickly."

Several companies, many of which already provide

VSAT services to customers with new operations in central and eastern Europe, hope to use the new satellite, which is due to be launched in June.

Lillemor Larsson, the managing director of VSATEL, one of these companies, said it had about ten customers and 700 dishes in countries such as Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Poland including Ericsson, the Swedish telecommunications company, and Asa Brown Boveri, the Swiss-Swedish power and electrical engineering group.

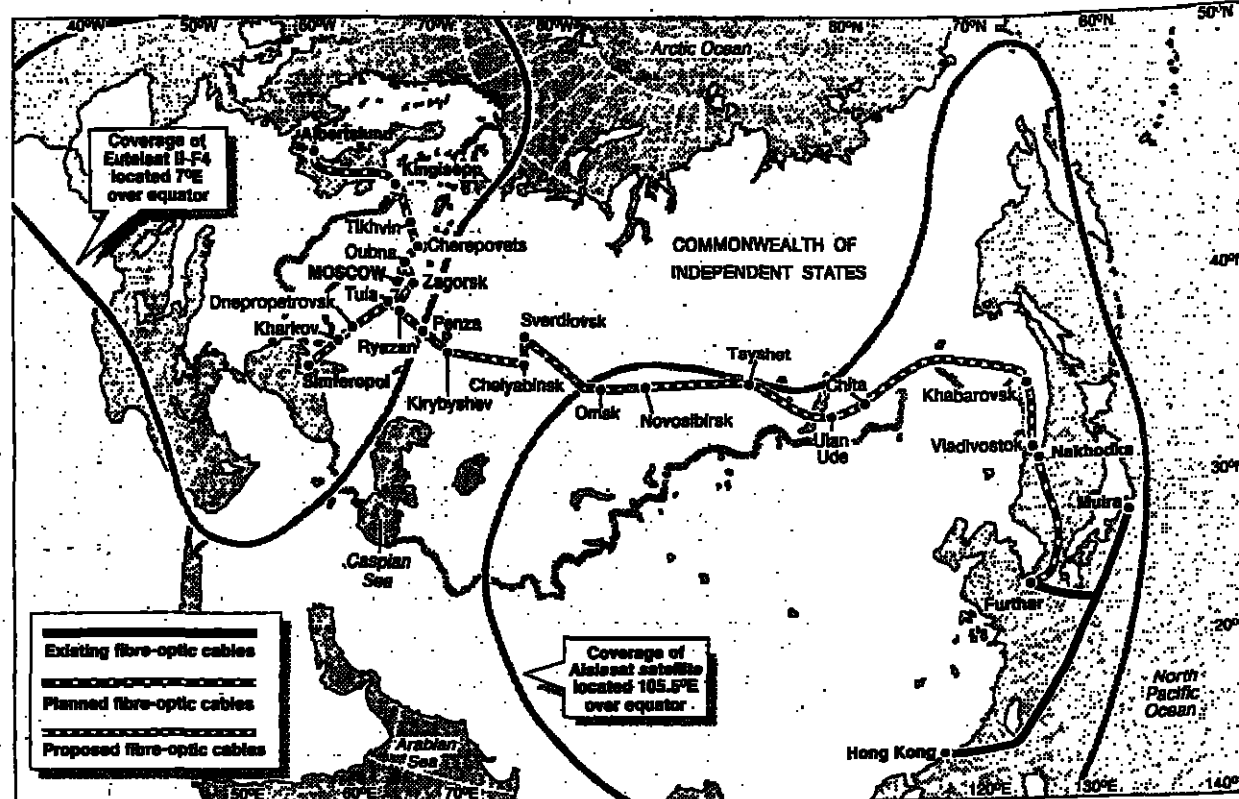
Ms Larsson said her company had no Russian clients yet. "There are Russian satellites in orbit," she added, "but these have low power, are a bit old and are not stable any more in the sky which

means dishes need to track them." However she is already getting requests from around the globe in anticipation of the satellite launch and the planned launch in the summer of 1994 of two more craft, each of which will have 10,000 circuits.

These two mid-Atlantic satellites, a venture by the Orion Satellite Corporation of Washington DC and partners will offer VSAT coverage across America and into eastern Europe, although they will fall short of Moscow.

In Britain, the trade and industry department has given the company the provisional go-ahead to link into the public switched telephone network, which should allow somebody to send data or a fax from a VSAT terminal in, say Gdansk, Poland, to a machine in Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire.

Andy Lockwood, the business development director of BAE Communications and one of the partners in the project, said that the service



also offered the possibility of creating a quick telecommunications network in central and eastern European towns that have poor local terrestrial networks by linking together a series of VSATs.

Mr Lockwood indicated that a third satellite was also being planned, which, being closer to Europe, would extend coverage eastwards and beyond Moscow.

Some of the most ambitious projects involve linking western Europe and the Far East via fibre-optic cables with the former Soviet bloc. Cable & Wireless plans to build digital networks in two Russian free trade zones at Nakhodka, a sea port near

Vladivostok, and on the island of Sakhalin, about 45 miles north of Hokkaido. The company intends to route telecommunications from these two locales to the rest of the world via an Asiasat satellite located at 105.5 degrees east.

In addition, the company is planning to install a fibre-optic undersea cable from Nakhodka to South Korea where it will join C&W's main cable network that serves the region.

STC Submarine, of Greenwich, southeast London, has won a contract to lay a 1,260km fibre-optic cable through the Baltic from Alberslund in Denmark to Kingisepp, near St Petersburg, Russia.

The project, which is being co-ordinated by Telecom Denmark and GN Great Nordic, will form the first section of a proposed trans-Soviet line, a fibre-optic cable system running from east to west across Siberia which

could link into the networks of free trade zones.

Another suggested fibre-optic backbone would run north to south through the Crimea, eventually linking into Italy. According to Roman Panos, of CIT Research in London, there is a huge stumbling block: CoCom, the international high technology trade restrictions organisation.

Although fast fibre optic cables can be laid to the Russian mainland, CoCom continues to restrict the export of cables for laying on Russian soil to those of 45 megabits a second, available in the US ten years ago.

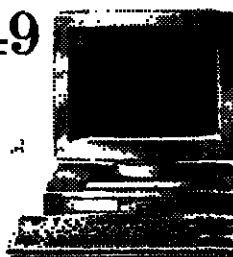
The Danish cable therefore has to be linked to Moscow via microwave radio. Lesley Hepden, a spokeswoman for STC Submarine Systems, says that trans-Soviet lines can be contemplated only when cables of 140 megabits a second are de-restricted.

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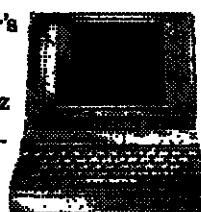
TANDON 386sx/N "In a 6-week trial, the Tandon 386sx/N proved an ideal personal computer for the first time user." Business Equipment Digest, 1991.

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Taken at your word

A COMPUTER that recognises spoken commands has been demonstrated by Apple Computer. The voice activated "Macintosh" was able to change the type size of a document, program a video recorder, pay bills, find a name in an electronic telephone directory and call the number.

The machine uses a powerful Motorola processor to recognise between 100 and 300 words and can decipher some continuous speech, as well as one-word commands. It will not be on general sale for several years.

Chips down

FROM November, the world's microcomputer manufacturers are expected to descend on Brazil when a law that has protected the local computer industry and banned the sale of any foreign competitors expires.

German pirates

GERMANY has been cited as the worst country for software piracy by the Business Software Alliance, a group of American companies. They claim that German piracy cost the industry a billion pounds in 1990 from lost sales. "Market demand in Germany is being met by illegal software, which is fast achieving a deeper penetration than legitimate products," said Robert Holleyman, BSA's managing director.

H-P recovers

HEWLETT-Packard surprised Wall Street last week with a 49 per cent rise in quarterly profits that sent shares in the computer and semiconductor giant racing

upwards. Hewlett-Packard reported net income of \$306 million (about £180 million) for the three months ending on January 31, up from \$205 million a year earlier.

Deaf grammar

DEAF people who use sign language are often at odds with the rules of grammar. When they write, verb tenses may not match, noun phrases may be omitted, and there may be dropped words. Some things that are implied while communicating in sign language cause confusion when written.

To help deaf writers catch their mistakes, a University of Delaware professor is developing a computer program around grammatical errors that appear to be unique among deaf writers.



Falling salary: John Akers, IBM's chairman

Safer crossing

THE Puffin - Pedestrian User Friendly Intelligent - Crossing will be in use by the autumn. It can automatically detect pedestrians on the crossing and prevents the traffic lights from turning green until users have reached the other side, a particular help to elderly and disabled people. If pedestrians cross quickly, the time allowed is automatically shortened. Fifty existing crossings on trunk roads will be converted by the end of next year.

Future perfect

TALIGENT, a joint venture by Apple and IBM, has named a board of directors who will have the task of developing a new type of system software, based entirely on object-oriented technology, for the next generation of computers.

Loser wins

A FIVE-year battle in Silicon Valley by Advanced Micro Devices (AMD) to be allowed to sell a clone of the popular 386 chip made by Intel - which powers most of the personal computers sold at present - has resulted in a victory for AMD.

An arbitrator in the United States decided that Intel had breached a technology sharing agreement with AMD. Though he awarded Intel damages of \$15 million the amount was small compared with AMD's claim for more than \$2 billion. Intel, however, is expected to continue to fight AMD in the courts, particularly when AMD produces the first clone of Intel's more powerful 486 chip.

Big Electronic Brother is listening

The rapid growth in electronic business communications and the falling cost of sophisticated miniaturised electronics components have combined to create a wide range of opportunities for electronic eavesdropping.

In today's fiercely competitive business environment, sensitive information such as marketing and expansion strategies, customer lists, supplier prices and takeover plans have become valuable commodities.

As a result, commercial espionage is flourishing — forcing it into the modern business ethics as a fact of life. Large national and international companies are increasingly having to defend themselves against powerful new electronic intelligence-gathering (EIG) technology. Undercover EIG is now expected to become one of the biggest security worries for the corporate commercial sector during the 1990s.

The fight against EIG is a spy-thriller fiction come to life. Surveillance and counter-surveillance professionals are playing technological cat and mouse, which gives a whole new meaning to the idea of information technology.

Nick Vafiadis is the technical director of the electronic security consultancy Communications Audit, a subsidiary of the Hambro banking group.

He has seen a rapid increase in high-tech commercial espionage in Britain during the past decade and predicts: "Things are going to get more aggressive and more dirty."

Boardrooms and directors' telephones are still bugged, as recent court cases involving high-street stores, including Comet and Dixons, and revelations from Mirror Group Newspapers, have shown.

The intelligence-gathering, however, has spread far beyond

Modern methods of eavesdropping have made spy-thriller fiction reality.
Mick Hurrell reports

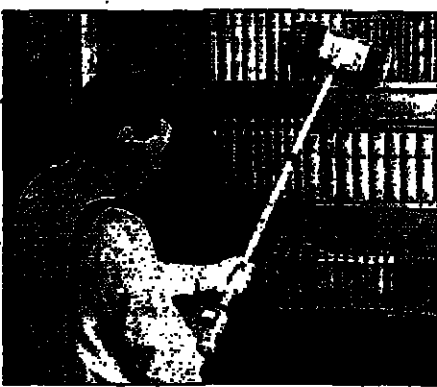
this. The cellular telephone is a good example. Telephones have always been a relatively soft target for surveillance. A cellphone is assumed to offer security for sensitive conversations and fax messages because it is cordless and switches radio frequency as it transfers from cell to cell. However, detailed technical information about the networks is available to the public and therefore to anybody who wants to intercept a cellphone call.

An FM scanning receiver tuned to the relevant base station transmission frequency and carried in a car behind the target user would succeed in all but the most signal-congested city-centre locations.

Even there, two computer-controlled scanners working with an electronic data decoder could follow cell changes. The target telephone number and serial number are all the intelligence information needed.

Even fibre-optic communications can be tapped by carefully stripping the transmission cable and bending it through a critical angle so that it "leaks" some of its light signal.

With just 0.2 per cent of the total signal strength tapped in this way it is possible to reconstruct all the information that is passing



down the cable. Concealed radio transmitters for bugging rooms are becoming more sophisticated and more difficult to track down. The latest equipment is small, voice-activated or time switch-activated, and it transmits on a narrow UHF waveband or automatically changes transmission frequency to avoid detection.

Of course, much of the telecommunications equipment in the modern office, including computer screens, telephones, telex machines and faxes, can be tapped, or in some cases monitored from outside a building by electronically reconstructing data from the radiation emissions that "leak" from some systems.

Estimating the extent of EIG is impossible, by the very nature of the problem. If an electronic eavesdropping operation is carried out professionally, a company will never know that it has been a target. For every discovered espionage attempt, there may be 50 or 100 more that go undetected. Even when such attempts are discovered, they are often not reported for fear of undermining commercial confidence.

All this means a growing workload for the handful of specialist electronics security consultants in Britain. None of them



I spy: David Benn, director of a surveillance equipment company. Inset, a "sweeper" searches for hidden bugs. Communications lines can be electronically tested for the presence of listening devices, calls can be scrambled, computer radiation can be shielded and transmitter signals identified.

must realise the potential threat and deal with it effectively. He says: "It is prudent to survey, on an irregular basis, to determine whether your business operations are susceptible to EIG in all its shapes and forms. There should be a budget and somebody responsible at main board level for ensuring that information security has a high profile."

By far the most difficult form of espionage to identify or stop involves a disgruntled employee or somebody being headhunted by a rival company who passes on sensitive commercial information either for financial reward or for a promise when they leave.

Although a company may suspect that a competitor is somehow getting access to marketing plans or client lists, no information actually disappears. The information is simply duplicated and passed on. The problem can hit even the smallest business.

In their attempts to halt the loss of sensitive information, more and more companies are now, often reluctantly, turning to using electronic surveillance techniques on employees at work who are suspected of leaking information to rivals. This can take the form of telephone or office conversation eavesdropping.

David Benn is the managing director of Lorraine Electronics, a London-based company that specialises in the design and development of a range of electronic surveillance equipment for sale to companies both in Britain and abroad.

Among the company's products are low-power, high-fidelity transmitters, which are concealed in such mundane office equipment as desktop calculators, plug adaptors, even fountain pens — all of which can transmit signals over a distance of several hundred metres.

Although the open sale of electronic surveillance equipment is a subject that often attracts calls for tougher regulation, Mr Benn says such equipment has proved its worth as a successful tool to root out internal espionage.

He says: "Professional surveillance technology is now so sophisticated and advanced that if you are targeted, you have not got a hope that they will know what you are up to. The best equipment now is of military quality. They are not for the man in the street to go and play James Bond with."

One of Lorraine Electronics' latest developments takes advantage of BT's new digital telephone technology and allows targeted office conversations to be monitored from anywhere in the world.

Signals from a concealed high-security listening device are relayed to a micro-processor-driven receiver, built into an ordinary answering machine, which can be located up to 500m from the transmitter.

Outwardly, the answerphone works conventionally, saving and replaying incoming messages. However, a coded signal overrides this function and relays the transmitter's live signal down the telephone line to wherever the surveillance professional is calling from. A new version to appear later this year will allow several transmitters to be monitored via the same answerphone unit.

Mr Vafiadis expects the technological stakes to rise even further as infra-red, laser, digital UHF and satellite transmission equipment becomes more readily available. In a disturbing prediction, he also expects EIG to become much more common across the whole of Europe as the trade barriers come down and competition intensifies.

Teleworking isn't, at least not in Britain

THE BRAVE new world of teleworking, where millions will in the near future be able to work from home connected to the office by computer, fax and telephone has lately come in for much pessimism.

The huge interest among would-be teleworkers means it will not fade, but office-bound employees are more eager for it than are their employers.

A report on the subject last week, the third this year, claims that for those organisations that allow it, the idea has been a great success.

It says that one in eight companies now uses some form of teleworking. The biggest benefit is more productivity, says the survey of 500 organisations by the National Computing Centre and Which Computer Show. The centre found the biggest problems are loss of personal contact and fears about whether staff are really working "and how to assess them."

A survey published last month by Organisation and Technology Research, a research firm, concluded that teleworking will not boom as suggested. It predicts only a 5 per cent annual increase in the practice to 1.3 million by 1995 because "the negative effects of teleworking vastly outweigh the advantages". These include a refusal by middle management to let staff work remotely and the social isolation.

Bill Murray, the centre's

communications manager, says: "Again and again, organisations that do not allow teleworking said motivation and management was a problem. But when we asked, 'Do you know what your staff are doing in the next office at the moment?', few could answer; monitoring can often be by results."

The survey says that employers also do not pay much credence to factors that gives their employees a better lifestyle. Mr Murray



says: "Surprisingly, reduced stress and the removal of travelling to work are not recognised by employers as major benefits."

This attitude is in sharp contrast to that prevailing on the other side of the Atlantic. In the US, up to 11 million people are believed to link to their offices via computer from their home for at least part of the week.

There is an emphasis in reports in the US on telecommuting, as the Americans call it, on the amount of petrol and commuter time saved and its contribution towards reducing traffic

congestion and pollution problems.

Consequently, teleworking is usually seen not as a full-time pursuit or a reason for rushing off to live in the middle of nowhere, but as something employees should do for only part of the week.

In Seattle, for example, it has been calculated that if 15 per cent of employees telecommuted for two days a week, it would reduce traffic by 6 per cent. That may not sound a lot but would remove the need for a new transit system being planned to deal with the increases forecast in traffic.

The British outlook may have to change as our own traffic problems get worse. This week the Association of London Authorities said the capital could soon be facing the same sort of gridlock — traffic jams that spread until whole districts come to a halt — that affects some US cities. Strasbourg has banned traffic from its central business district.

"I think it will take a long time for our attitudes to change," Mr Murray says. He may be right. When the Civil Service's Information Technology Services Agency started a telecommuting project in November, more than a few eyebrows were raised by a guide it produced, which told employees not to spend all day in pyjamas, sleep too late or watch television all day.

MATTHEW MAY

Digital chip picks up speed

A SUPER-powered computer chip has been shown by Digital Equipment, the world's second biggest computer company, which the company hopes will give it back a technological edge over rivals.

The new "alpha" chip, to be

made in Scotland and the US, which will be one of the world's fastest, should start to appear in computers by the end of the year.

In recent years, Digital's pre-eminence has been challenged by rivals such as Sun Microsystems and Hewlett-

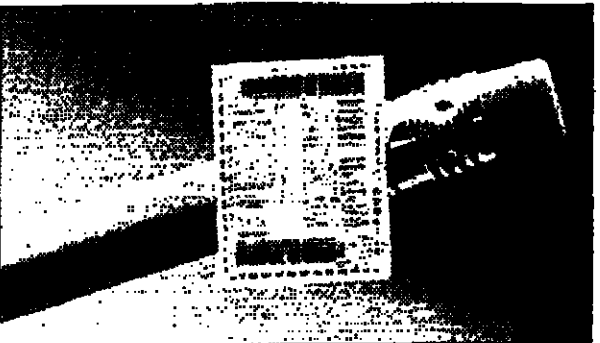
Packard, which have stolen the technological lead with their versions of powerful desktop computers called workstations.

Some industry analysts say the finger-pointing chip could restore the company's computers to the front rank although others say that any financial benefit will take some time. The company reported its first-ever operating loss in its last fiscal quarter.

Ken Olsen, the president of Digital, says the greater processing power of the chips will allow the broader use of new computing technologies such as artificial intelligence, voice recognition and computer-aided design.

The chip is the response to the growing popularity of a technology called reduced instruction set computing — rise — which speeds up a processor by limiting the number of commands it must execute.

Using alpha, Digital plans to rework its entire computer line with risc, including the Vax-mini computers that are based on a technology the company introduced in 1977. Alpha is the company's biggest technology leap since Vax.



The new alpha chip, Digital's gamble for the future

Compaq switch on Lite.

Just announced: COMPAQ LITE Lite20 and LITE Lite25 notebooks. Ultra lite and 386SL power, elephant-size disk. Battery-with-batter allows 4½ hours mains-free use. Neat expansion base option transforms Lite into desktop heavyweight. Our Holborn laptop centre has full info.

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Personal Bubble Jet

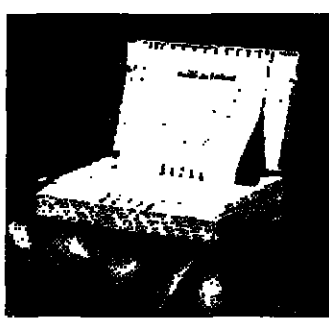
In just 12 months, the Canon BJ-10ex has become the world's most successful portable computer printer. In the UK alone, it has already captured a massive share of the portable printer market.

Further proof, if any more were needed, that dot matrix is yesterday's technology.

But like you, we're interested in tomorrow. Which is why we're introducing the new, even more powerful Canon BJ-10ex, with an additional industry-standard emulation and a range of versatile font effects.

Compare it with any dot matrix, and ask yourself why you're being left behind.

Noise Dot matrix is nothing if not noisy. The BJ-10ex is virtually silent. **Quality** In terms of print quality, bubblejet beats dot matrix hands down. Its 64-nozzle print head gives you 360 dpi — the rich, black output of Near-Laser Quality.



Not much larger than a sheet of A4, the BJ-10ex will fit your briefcase easily.

Size Even with the optional automatic sheet feeder, the BJ-10ex is one of the world's smallest desktop printers. **Portability** Simply unclip the sheet feeder, and the BJ-10ex is probably the world's finest and most versatile

The world's most successful portable printer

laptop. Even with rechargeable battery pack, it weighs only 4.6 lbs. **Technology** Canon's unique bubblejet system is a serious, cost-effective alternative to laser print technology (in which, by the way, we also lead the world). Among other benefits, it combines print head and ink supply in a single, replaceable cartridge, which makes the BJ-10ex practically maintenance-free and highly economical to use.

Versatility The BJ-10ex gives you clear, crisp text in a variety of styles and sizes, together with high-definition, sophisticated graphics. It also offers all the benefits of italic and a range of other powerful font effects.

Compatibility The BJ-10ex emulates IBM Proprinter X24e and Epson LQ-850t, so it runs with all IBM PCs and compatibles, and the vast majority of applications software.

Price The BJ-10ex is yours for an amazing £345.00†† RRP, including print cartridge and mains adaptor! Which makes it far and away the highest quality printer at anything like the price.

See for yourself To see the BJ-10ex in action, pop into your nearest leading retail outlet. For a brochure, call 0800 252223 free of charge, or simply complete and return the coupon.

BJ-10ex Canon BUBBLE JET PRINTER

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To: Canon Text and Data Products, PO Box 1567, Birmingham B1 1PE. I would like to know more about the Canon BJ-10ex personal bubblejet printer. Please send me a brochure.

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TT/10/28/2

Ring of confidence despite hard times

Britain has a record number of cellular telephones. The challenge, reports Peter Purton, is to keep them ringing

Few would deny that the past year has been tough for Britain's cellular business, which until recently was so glamorous. Bad debt, recession, rationalisation and consolidation have all hit the industry hard, but there are signs that better times may be just around the corner.

With about 1,240,000 cellular users, Britain still has more mobile telephone owners than any other European country and can also lay claim to the lowest equipment prices and most competitive call charges.

Where sales in other European markets have increased, however, the number of cellular subscribers in the UK has stagnated in the past two years, if not fallen.

The recession, of course, has been partly to blame for the decrease in demand. Many of the industry's best market sectors, such as finance and construction, have been hardest hit by the economic slump. But not all the blame for industry's misfortune can be placed on the economy.

The decline, which started in 1989, followed almost five years of buoyant sales. Early prognoses for the growth of mobile telephone use suggested that there would be as many as 100,000 users by the end of the 1980s. In the event there were 700,000, as sales in some years increased by more than 100 per cent.

The success was a direct consequence of the government's competition policy, under which more

than 70 companies at one time were jostling to sell cellular airtime to new customers.

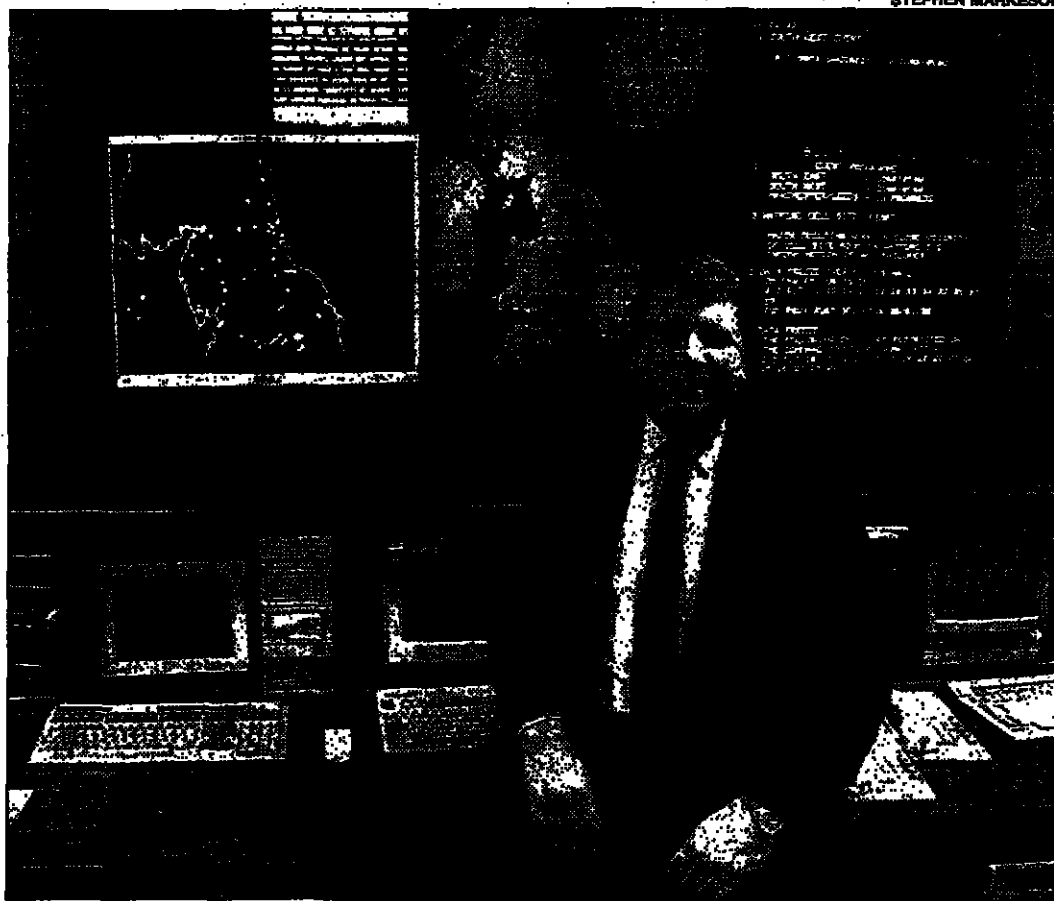
Many of the companies, however, showed an astonishing lack of caution. Their eagerness to sell was not matched by their business acumen, and they found themselves without the necessary structures to handle the unexpectedly rapid growth. As a result, many suffered crippling debts and the industry acquired a bad reputation for quality of service.

The rationalisation that followed has reduced the number of service providers from more than 70 to about 40, of which the top five handle more than half the business.

Stafford Taylor, the managing director of BT's cellular service subsidiary Cellnet, says: "We've been through a period of extreme turbulence." But he argues that it may have produced benefits. "Service provision will now be of a higher quality than it has been in the past. The customer is now being served by a small number of well-funded companies."

One of these is Mercury Carphone, part of the Cable & Wireless group, which also includes Mercury Communications, Britain's alternative fixed telephone network operator, and Mercury Personal Communications, one of the three companies licensed to operate the next generation of mobile telephone networks.

In recent years, Mercury Carphone has gone out of its way



Stafford Taylor of Cellnet: "Service provision will be of a higher quality than in the past"

to position itself at the quality end of the market as a business-to-business service provider, concentrating on corporate rather than private user accounts. But it was not always so.

It had in fact inherited a lot of low-usage subscribers from the days when phones were being given away in order to attract new customers. As Derek Rigg, the

company's director and product manager, says: "When the recession came, these subscribers were the first to go." Now, he says, it is all about holding on to subscribers for as long as possible.

The key, both network operators and service providers have recognised, is quality and added value. Quality means both carefully selected customers and a high

standard of service. "We must make customers feel that we can solve any problem quickly," Mr Rigg says.

In the past, when a customer had a problem, the dealer would tell him to see the service provider, who would tell him to go and see the operator, who would refer him to the other two, he notes. "Now we say come and see

us and we'll sort it out," he adds.

A typical example of the kind of value being added is Cellnet's Callback service. Here messages are stored on a voice messaging system while subscribers are away from their telephones. Once they return, they call the message handling system and retrieve the messages.

From the customer's point of view, it can mean valuable information saved which otherwise may have been lost. For Cellnet and its service providers, it means two calls to be charged that otherwise would not have taken place.

Cellnet estimates that between 12 and 15 per cent of its users now use Callback. Estimating that airtime usage has grown by 10 per cent over the past few months, Mr Taylor says he has plans to announce further value-added services over the next 12 months.

Chris Gent, his counterpart at rival network operator Vodafone, is also cautiously optimistic. "The number of new people joining is better than this time last year," he says, while acknowledging that the level of disconnections remains high.

The pace of the recovery will improve, most believe, when personal communications networks (PCNs) offering far cheaper mobile phones are introduced over the next few years.

According to Mr Rigg, "the present operators have cash cows and have had no particular reason to push for a mass market. Once we see competition from PCNs, we will see massive growth."

His theory is at least partly confirmed by the operators themselves. Both Cellnet and Vodafone are preparing micro-cellular networks, potentially cheaper ver-

sions of their cellular networks being developed to compete head on with PCNs.

"We will have our microcellular services available the day the PCN operators begin to offer theirs," Mr Taylor says. He believes that because operators can package these services much more flexibly, they will open new areas of the market. In particular, Mr Taylor sees the services appealing to domestic users in the ABCI groups, as well as small businesses that have found today's cellular services too expensive.

Despite the supposed upturn, many believe that the cellular service sector is likely to face a second round of consolidations, this time among the larger companies. In two years' time, Mr Rigg says, the top ten cellular service providers may be a top five.

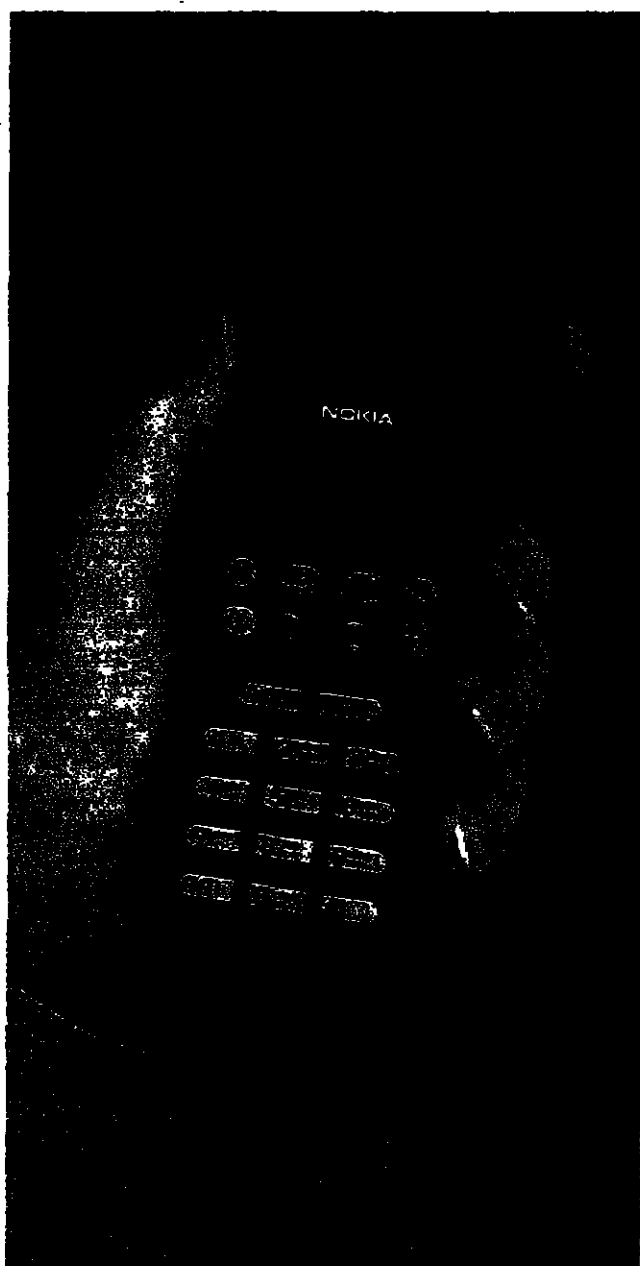
This process may already have started. It is rumoured that Mercury is close to acquiring one service provider, and there is speculation about the future of what was until recently one of Britain's largest service providers, which is reported to have lost 15,000 of its subscribers through bad debt in the past year and is now 23,000 subscribers behind Hutchison Telecommunications, the top service provider.

The current round of consolidations may itself be superseded by another round in the mid-1990s, this time on a pan-European level. Hutchison, for example, is already active as a service provider in continental markets. Every day there are fewer cellular companies, both at the operating and service provision level, that have not drawn up plans for a pan-European strategy.

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Operators try hard to switch off the grumbles

DESPITE improvements by Vodafone and Cellnet to counter the many complaints about poor lines on mobile phone networks, users say that blackspots still occur.

They are sceptical of the glowing statistics on network quality provided by the service operators. A Consumers' Association survey last April showed that some dissatisfaction still existed among customers of both networks, although Vodafone came out slightly better.

Cellnet implemented a £4-million-a-week investment programme in 1990-1, then followed up with a "network audit" in which every radio transmitter was checked and retuned. The results have begun to show during the past six months.

The report said that on Cellnet 15 per cent of calls were "dropped" — cut off in mid-conversation — but Cellnet says that now only 3 or 4 per cent of calls are dropped.

Vodafone claims to do even better, saying that only 2.6 per cent of calls are dropped, compared with the association's survey figure of 8 per cent.

The problem with a mobile phone network is that it relies on radio waves rather than wires, to transmit the call. The network consists of large radio aerials fitted to a high point, such as a tall building, church spire, or a specially built tower.

When a number is dialled on a mobile phone, the call is transmitted to the nearest aerial, which is linked to a telephone wire. The aerial transmits across an area of one kilometre to about 12 kilometres, creating a radio cell. The exact size of the cell depends on the power of the transmitter.

Each cell has a limited number of channels or lines, which it can allocate to calls. A call cannot get through if

The networks say the service is continually improving



Horton Tower, Dorset: a Vodafone base station

there are no free channels. If the mobile phone is in a car, it will often drive through several cells and every time it enters a new one, the aerial of the cell it is leaving hands over the call to the new one. Calls can be dropped during the hand-over if no channels in the new cell are spare.

The network operators' investment programmes have included the installation of more radio aerials, especially in the heavily congested urban areas. This additional capacity has combined with a reduction in the number of new subscribers signing on and fewer calls, leading to better line quality. Last year, the number of subscribers on both networks increased by fewer than 100,000, com-

pared with 290,000 the year before.

Until now, the network operators have not been able to keep up with the growth, but now they have the opportunity to make improvements in a much slower market.

John Skarritt, of the Telecommunications Users' Foundation (TUF), is not convinced that the actual experience of mobile phone users reflects the operators' statistics.

What also affects call quality is that reception on hand portable telephones is not as good as on car phones in some areas because the hand portable telephones send out a weaker signal and can be used only in areas where radio coverage is highly concentrated. In Leicestershire and Gloucestershire, coverage for hand portables can be fringy and in the really remote areas, it is likely to remain difficult to make calls even on a car phone.

The cost of installing an aerial in a rural area is about £100,000, which is unlikely to be justified in some places because of the small number of possible subscribers. There are, however, exceptions. Cellnet, for example, has installed coverage in the Shetland Islands to serve the oil rigs. Fishermen also make use of it.

Mr Skarritt believes that an independent testing body is needed. "There has never been a standard method of monitoring quality of service on these networks," he says.

The two network operators collect their statistics by making monitored calls from a car driving around the country. There is a move by the OfTel, the telecommunications monitor, to set up its own unit along similar lines. Tenders have been called for a consultancy to undertake it.

SARA MACMILLAN

Battle of the airwaves

CELLNET and Vodafone, Britain's two cellular telephone network operators, generate hundreds of millions of pounds from subscribers. But because of the novel way in which the mobile telephone industry has been structured, neither operator knows any of the names and addresses of the people and companies providing the profits.

Instead of dealing directly with the end users, both network operators have been legally obliged to work through "service providers", which in turn operate through local dealers. Although Cellnet and Vodafone have been visible to users, the users have been "hidden" from the network owners.

The architects of this scheme wanted to introduce strong competition into the market-place, to boost subscriber numbers and lower consumer costs. To that extent, it worked, and Britain built up Europe's two largest cellular networks in five years, at the lowest cost to the consumer.

But the system backfired. Keen to recoup their heavy start-up costs, the two network operators decided to pay generous commissions to the service providers to increase their subscriber population. Service providers had to pass this on as bonuses to dealers, who in turn could offer inducements to potential customers to sign up.

For the user, cheap phones often meant onerous service contracts. The low cost of the phone also obscured the true cost of using cellular service. Customers became disgruntled and business was lost. Things worsened with the onset of the recession, and a few dealers began to persuade customers to switch from one service pro-

vider to another simply to earn a second bonus.

Efforts have now been made to improve the business. Cellnet has more than halved its service provider commission for new connections and set up a £500,000 industry training scheme.

In addition, new arrangements for personal communication networks mean that both Cellnet and Vodafone will now be permitted to sell directly to the public from 1993 onwards.

Although the cowboy element of the business is clearly in retreat, would-be cellphone users still need to watch out for extra charges and to be careful about the service provider or dealer they choose. In general, the best advice is still to read the small print of any contract and, needless to say, caveat emptor.

JOHN WILLIAMSON

Taking your life in your hands

An industry body does not hold a press conference every day to tell you its members' products are unsafe. That, however, is exactly what the Federation of Communications Services, which represents the cellular radio service providers, did at the Wembley conference centre in September.

The event was all the more remarkable for the lack of evidence provided to support the claim. One journalist asked: "Have you gathered any statistics on accidents involving mobile phones?"

David Savage, the federation chairman, answered: "No, but we are looking for some."

Another journalist asked: "Do you know of anybody who has been hurt in an accident from somebody using a mobile phone?"

Mr Savage told him: "No, but we want to make people aware of the dangers."

James Malcolm, the federation's chief executive, admits: "We have had enormous difficulty finding statistical evidence to support our claim, but we know there is a problem and it is important we do something about it before somebody gets hurt."

The success of campaigns in

Peter Purton looks at efforts to protect road users

other countries is used to support his case.

Mr Malcolm says: "In Germany, if you are involved in an accident and do not take the right precautions when using a mobile phone, you are not insured. You pay for your car, the other car and any damages."

The federation is concerned about the increasing use of hand portable cellular telephones by drivers. Eight out of every ten cellular telephones now sold are hand portables. The fear is that they will be too distracting for drivers without the hands-free facility on most car phones.

The law is vague about the use of mobile phones while driving. The Highway Code discourages it, but no law on safety regulation forbids it. Perhaps ironically, that is the way one of the few campaigners on the issue would like to keep it, and he is a legislator.

"Self-regulation is always preferable to imposed regulation," says

Douglas French, Conservative MP for Gloucester. Mr French, a backbench campaigner for road safety, is taking seriously the potential threat from thoughtless users. "If self-regulation does not work, it may be necessary to consider legislation," he says.

The industry is not calling for a ban on the sale of hand-helds, but wants drivers intending to use them to be encouraged to install car kits that equip them with the hands-free facilities used by owners of dedicated car phones.

Such facilities, though still requiring the user to dial with the fingers, allow a conversation without the handset being held.

The potential danger associated with mobile phones has been known for some time. That is why hands-free operation has become standard on almost all telephones designed to be built into cars.

However, recent evidence from behaviour scientists suggests that even hands-free cellular telephone use may not be altogether safe.

Tests by scientists at Loughborough University's human sciences research centre showed that drivers conducting hands-free mobile phone conversations were significantly more distracted



Safety first: the car passenger on this German road makes a call. The driver is uninsured if he conducts the conversation

than other drivers. In particular, they were slower to react to motorway road signs.

The next step up from hands-free is the fully voice-activated mobile phone. This not only lets drivers talk without holding the handset but also dials when the driver speaks the numbers or appropriate codewords into the microphone.

So far, experiences with this type

of technology have been unsatisfactory. In 1987, for example, both BT and Racal Vodac introduced voice-activated car phones. Neither of them held their place in the market for long.

The technical problems of overcoming the effects of background noise, as well as their high cost — £2,700 in the case of BT's Topaz, for example — proved too much. Now BT, with the help of

NEC, the Japanese electronics manufacturer, is having a second go, believing it has solved the noise problem.

More importantly perhaps, BT seems to have solved the price problem at least. Its Azure model sells for just £299.

Not all the evidence speaks against the mobile phone's road safety record. California's highway patrol, for instance, believes

that the owners of car phones are improving road safety.

The highway patrol estimates that about a third of calls to the state's emergency number are from people using car phones, reporting anything from accidents and stranded motorists to traffic hazards and drunks on the road. However, no record was made of whether the users were stationary or moving.

Choice in the cheapest place

Britain is the cheapest country in Europe in which to buy a cellular telephone, thanks largely to bonuses paid to retailers and high-volume production in the late 1980s. On average, new subscribers pay only £190 for a new telephone.

Most dealers receive £250 to £350 for every new subscriber they sign up. This allows them to discount heavily the recommended retail price.

Telephones come in four categories — car phones, transportables, transmobiles, and hand portables. Whereas car phones accounted for around 70 per cent of sales when the networks were started six years ago, the hand portable, with about 65 per cent market share, is now the clear favourite. The British market is dominated by products from Japan's NEC and Panasonic, Motorola of the United States, and Finland's Nokia.

Buying a car phone is the cheapest way to become a cellular subscriber.

Many dealers sell models such as the NEC CM3 and the Panasonic H Series for less than £100, including installation. More recent models cost between £200 and £400, including installation.

Poor installations have brought numerous complaints in the past six years but the Federation of Communications Services, which represents service providers and retailers, says there should be no problems if manufacturers' guidelines are followed.

Body-mounted aerials cost £10 to £35 and the increasingly popular glass-mounted type £15 to £75. To function well, the aerial should be on or near the vehicle's roof.

Transportable phones are bulky portable units. Unlike pocket-sized hand portables, they come with an integral large battery pack. They perform better than hand portables when signals are weak, such as on the edge of the coverage zone and inside buildings, and offer a longer battery life. They cost between £150 and £250. A typical example is the Mitsubishi MT4, costing about £200.

Transmobiles are transportable-hand portables that can be installed in a vehicle

and can be removed and carried like a transportable. They cost about the same as transportables.

Hand portables cost from £100 to more than £500. The main benefits of the more expensive models are reduced size and longer battery life.

Potential buyers now face a bewildering array of features on most telephones, such as abbreviated and memory dialling, which stores numbers. The power of a battery is measured in terms of "talk time", usually between one and two hours, and standby time, when the telephone is on but not being used. Six to 20 hours is typical.

Many telephones now include timers indicating the duration of the last call and the total call duration. Some are also able to give details of incoming and outgoing calls. Recently introduced hand portables are compact and long-lasting. At £550, Motorola's Microtac 2 is one of the most expensive.

It weighs about half a pound and with a high-power battery can give two hours' talk time or 20 hours' standby. The Microtac competes against such models as the £200 Nokia 101. The cost of a cellphone is deceptive. The retailer's ability to sell cheaply depends partly on how hard a bargain he or she drives on elements of the subscriber contract. Greg Moore, of the London-based CMA Consultancy, says the industry has not yet lost its cowboy reputation. "There are," he says, "still some dealers and service providers who are unscrupulous."

Despite the importance of the contractual arrangements, it is still the cost of cellphones that attracts most buyers. Finbar Doyle, the manager of the London retailer Carphone World, says: "It is by far the most important thing for most customers. Some just choose the phone and sign the contract without looking at it. The contract could be a seven-year agreement for all they know."

Cellnet and Vodafone have said they want an end to the bonus system that keeps prices artificially low.

KEN YOUNG

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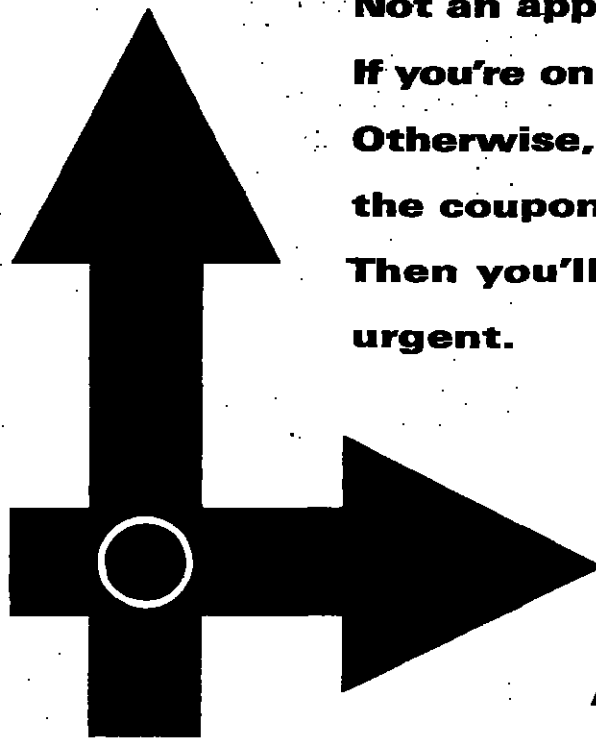
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Yes, but can I afford it?

Ken Young considers the costs of carphones and portables and assesses Vodafone and Cellnet

Having a cellular telephone is still seen by many people as a luxury. With telephones available for as little as £50 for a carphone and a hand-portable for £150, it is the cost of using the service rather than of acquiring the telephone that potential subscribers fear.

Cellular users spend about £1,200 each year, of which £900 covers average call charges and £300 line rental. Typically, a subscriber will choose to buy a telephone from one of the many dealers nationwide. Dealers either sell telephones on behalf of service providers, in which case much of what is seen in the shop is display only, or, in the case of the larger dealers, buy in bulk themselves from manufacturers and sell direct. Bonuses paid by the service providers for each new subscriber ensures that telephones are heavily discounted.

The cost of using Cellnet or Vodafone is very similar, so the choice of operator is likely to be affected by coverage requirements and the fact that some dealers offer better terms.

Cellnet and Vodafone both charge £50 for connection and £25 monthly line rental. Cellnet charges 9p a minute for off peak calls and Vodafone 10p. On both networks call charges rise to 33p (within the M25) and 25p (elsewhere) during peak times. The peak period covers a large part of the day: Cellnet's peak is from 0800 to 2100, Vodafone's from 0730 to 2100. Both networks charge peak rates from Monday to Saturday.

The subscriber contract represents an agreement between the service provider and the customer. The service provider sends out bills every month.

A full understanding of what constitutes a fair contract can save thousands of pounds. Points to watch include the length of the contract, with one year now the most common, and any notice period needed. Typically, this will be three months but customers should ensure that

termination can be arranged at any time after the first year and that no termination fee will apply, or that call charges will be levied if they cease using the telephone yet pay the remaining monthly subscription.

The most common way of billing is in half-minute units, with a minimum call length of 90 seconds. Ensure that you will not be charged for calls that are unsuccessful. Itemised billing is essential: the charge is usually about £3 a month. For payment of bills, direct debit arrangements are usual.

It is perhaps advisable to take out an insurance policy. Dealers are keen to sell policies because they often find it difficult to explain why a replacement telephone can cost three or four times the original price, which will have been heavily discounted.

Insurance ranges from £2.50 to £7.50 a month. Basic cover invariably includes loss, theft or accidental damage, while the more expensive policies cover the provision of a replacement telephone if the original is being repaired and give indemnity against unauthorised use.

Extra services include the provision of messaging services which allow storage and retrieval of incoming calls when the cellphone user is unavailable or simply doesn't want to answer the telephone. Calls are stored on a central computer and retrieved by calling in to it when convenient.

If required, the system can be made to call the user with a reminder that there are messages waiting. Cellnet's service, called Callback, offers twice the messaging capacity of Vodafone's Messenger service, although messages must be shorter — 60 rather than 90 seconds. Charges are on the basis of the duration of the message added to the time taken to retrieve it.

On a no-subscription basis Vodafone charges 25p a minute for the message and 33p a minute during retrieval. Alternatively, it charges £4.75 monthly subscription, in which case the user only pays the retrieval fee.

On Cellnet's Callback ser-



vice subscribers pay £3 a month plus 25p a minute for the message and 33p for retrieval.

Cellback has 60,000 subscribers compared with Messenger's 70,000. Cellnet says that its subscribers spend an average of £30 a month.

Despite the usefulness of messaging services, some dealers say they have had complaints from users who report that calls are diverted to the service too readily — for example when a car is going under a bridge, temporarily losing contact, or when the telephone is on the fringes of the coverage area and reception is poor.

They also inform new customers that a subscription can be linked to the main

contract and thus subject to the same termination conditions.

Value added tax is applied to the telephone and the network charges. As a result of the budget last year, the personal calls of business users are taxable.

The tax on personal use has been heavily criticised within the industry and is seen as something of a misnomer.

"We think it will cost more to administer than it will generate in revenue," says David Savage, the chairman of the service providers group of the Federation of Communications Services.

In practice the tax requires personal calls to the value of

£200 to be declared, meaning top rate tax payers are liable for up to £80 in tax, about 9 per cent of the yearly cost of running a telephone.

Alternatively the subscriber can agree with the employer to independently pay for private calls and a proportion of subscriber charges, and thus avoid any tax.

The Treasury, which says that the tax is based on an estimation that 30 per cent of calls are personal, expects to generate £10 million this year and £65 million the following year.

Where possible, most cellular users try to avoid making international calls on their telephones and take up the option of having them barred.

Playing the numbers game in Europe

With excellent marketing, the digital phone could be used Continent-wide

Nobody doubts that some time in the future, we will all carry Star Trek-style communicators, so anybody on the globe can instantly call anybody else. The questions of how and when still remain, and the people who get the correct answers will lead the communications industry in the next century.

The next two steps towards a universal personal communicator are already on the way, which will bring the wonders of digital technology to cellular telephones.

One, GSM, is beginning to be installed in London and on the Continent. The other, PCN, is due to come on stream next year.

GSM — so called after an EC committee but now named Global System for Mobiles — is the first European-wide standard for cellular telephones, operating on the same frequency throughout the EC. Clearing that frequency in all countries was an important achievement. Every country is committed to building a GSM network, so a subscriber should be able to use a handset anywhere in the community.

The drawback, in Britain at least, is that the telephones themselves are going to be far more expensive than the existing analogue equivalents. Call charges will be higher and the portable handsets — now on trial — are larger than the best analogue sets.

"As a marketing man, I don't see anything I can sell there," says Keith Johnson, general manager of the cellular subscriber division of Motorola, which is also one of the firms committed to setting up a PCN. Is GSM in danger of being another expensive flop in the UK, such as telepoint?

In the long term, GSM will succeed, says Stefan Zehle, a telecommunications consultant. But in the short term, it will take off very slowly in Britain, he adds. In France and Germany, on the other



User friendly: the state of hand-held telephones to come

hand, the current cellular systems are much more expensive than in Britain, so GSM is likely to be accepted much faster. This should lead to economies of scale, eventually bringing prices down to levels that British users will find attractive.

According to a recent forecast, GSM equipment is unlikely to sell as fast as analogue equipment until at least 1995, probably 1996, when there will be about 3 to 4.5 million subscribers.

With services likely to start in a hesitant fashion next year, this growth is not explosive. Nevertheless, according to Mr Zehle, this should be enough to bring the cost of PCN handsets down to a manageable level.

Technically, PCN sets are very similar to GSM, the main difference being that they operate at double the frequency and can therefore carry many more subscribers.

PCNs are also aimed at a different market, according to a recent Frost and Sullivan report. The main competitor for PCNs is the old, copper wire-based system in everybody's home.

To succeed, PCNs will be designed mainly for use with hand-portables. They must be cheap enough for people to

use at home as an extra telephone line that can also be used away from home. Cellular is too expensive for this because of the high cost of calls, so PCN charges within a subscriber's home area will have to be comparable with BT or Mercury.

Calls made outside the home area but within the same region are expected to be comparable to using a telephone box, while calls made at the other end of the country will be at cellular rates.

This flexible call charge structure should make PCNs a more attractive proposition for ordinary domestic subscribers. The report predicts that Britain could have more than 10 million subscribers by 1998.

Richard Goswell, the managing director of Mercury PCN, says that PCN's appeal to the mass consumer market has also attracted the attention of consumer electronics firms as a way of entering the communications market.

If GSM add PCN overcome the severe marketing and economic hurdles, they will be the first truly continent-wide mobile networks in the world, leaving the United States, with its fragmented, city and state-wide systems, far behind.

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Pharos sheds light on single market

BY RODNEY HOBSON

A COMPUTER program to show British firms how the single European market will affect them — even if they do not export — has been launched by National Westminster Bank. Called Pharos, after the lighthouse at Alexandria that was one of the wonders of the ancient world, it has been compiled with the help of Ernst & Young, the accountant, and the Confederation of British Industry.

Pharos is designed mainly for businesses with a turnover of £500,000 to £130 million, but it can be used by firms of all sizes. The program displays on the screen a series of questions about a business. The user selects answers through the keyboard. The questions look at aspects such as suppliers, operations, products and customers, enabling Pharos to build up a detailed picture of the business. The system then draws on information supplied by experts to identify key issues for that particular business.

Issues will include environment, health and safety and VAT. Pharos will provide information on EC directives that are legally binding on British companies. NarWest will supply the first disc free, irrespective of whether the user has an account with the bank. That offer will last at least until the end of the year. Updated discs will cost



"The uniform is a strait-jacket"

Taking a shot at commercial success

By Jo Hobbs

RICH in products rather than cash is how Will Gompertz, aged 26, describes his publishing company as it fights its way through the recession.

It is called Shots and was launched two years ago. Operating from a shoebox-sized office in Ladbroke Grove, west London, it is the only UK company to produce video magazine programmes sold on subscription to people in advertising.

Mr Gompertz, who used to work for a film company, teamed up with Neil Thomson, a director and designer from Thames Television, to launch the venture. Their idea was that few people in the advertising world saw every good television commercial, so there ought to be a market for videos offering the best material from around the world.

Gompertz and Thomson were determined that the company should be self-funding. They raise cash by selling annual £300 subscriptions, which buy six programmes. "We never borrow money," Mr Gompertz says. The recession has schooled them in working on a low budget, with minimum overheads. There are five desks for a team of six, two computers, a telephone, a fax and a copier in their one room.

Subscriptions are bought by companies such as Saatchi & Saatchi, Procter & Gamble and J Walter Thompson and by other links in the production chain such



Long-term view: Neil Thomson (left) and Will Gompertz spotted a video niche

as producers and lighting designers. Shots has many subscribers on the Continent and the response to its launch in America two months ago has also been good. An agent was recently appointed in Japan. "The UK leads the world in the advertising industry," Mr Gompertz says. "Everyone comes to Britain for our techniques and advice."

Each programme is designed and directed by Mr Thomson. The other members of the team, who

are all aged under 26, include a writer, a producer, a researcher and an executive manager. Mr Gompertz sees himself as the publisher. "For each programme," he says, "we view over 300 tapes and then write, produce and direct a programme. Why read about the moving image when you can watch it?"

Shots itself does not advertise. It relies on word of mouth. "People are coming to us now as our name is starting to be recognised," Mr

Gompertz says. Shots reckons that so far it is operating at 60 per cent of its capacity, but has nevertheless just reached the breakeven stage. Money coming in from subscriptions is used to fund the next programme.

Mr Gompertz and Mr Thomson are not looking for a quick breakthrough. Because they are still young, they say, they can afford to put time and effort into the company. "It's a long-term commitment."

BRIEFINGS

Lenta Business Space has almost doubled the size of its Coppergate House, a few minutes' walk from London's Liverpool Street station, to offer premises with places to small businesses (Derek Harris writes). Workshop, retail, studio and office space can be had on a flexible, monthly licence basis in a fully managed building with office facilities, including a message-taking service. The aim is to give businesses an advantageous start.

Business Space has four developments in London and there are some workspaces free at two others. One is Blackfriars Foundry, in Blackfriars Road, and the other is The Chandlery, in Westminster Bridge Road, both of them in SE1.

More details from Business Space on 071-721 7700.

For entrepreneurs with an eye on longer-term prospects in the leisure market the English Tourist Board has produced *Building a Tourism Business: a development guide*. There is a useful section giving average costs for a wide range of leisure facilities, from budget hotels to aviaries and ice-ribs. The guide is available for £10 from Department D, English Tourist Board, 24 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0ET.

A code of conduct covering the prompt payments of bills has been launched by the Confederation of British Industry. This calls on companies to agree payment terms at the outset of a deal and stick to them.

EDITED BY DEREK HARRIS

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Norman Howell looks at the 1992 Formula One motor racing season and assesses the prospects of cars and drivers

Mansell sets off in pursuit of an elusive title

THE winter lay-off has been shorter than usual and a number of teams have only just met deadlines, signing drivers and sponsorship deals at the last moment. But the curtain goes up on the 1992 Formula One motor racing season this weekend in South Africa with a mixture of the familiar and the not so familiar.

The South African grand prix returns to the calendar for the first time since 1985, when Nigel Mansell brought Williams a victory. Mansell will be behind the wheel of a Williams again on Sunday but the Kyalami track, near Johannesburg, has a new look. Mansell's rivals for the title will also be different but the main opposition will be instantly recognisable.

McLaren do not have their new car ready for the race and have opted to play safe by bringing last year's model, in which Ayrton Senna won the drivers' championship, to this event.

Despite this, McLaren and Honda, their Japanese partners, are favourites to retain both the constructors' and the drivers' titles. But Williams and Renault would like to spoil the party and they have some strong cards to play.

The first of course is Mansell. This may be his last fling and his move to Florida has prompted renewed speculation that he may wish to drive in Indy-Car, the American domestic series for which he expressed great interest last year. But he is determined to make another attempt at winning the Formula One title that has so eluded him.

For this, he says, he has trained like never before and will even move into a house near Williams's headquarters in Didcot.

Whether he makes it or not will probably come down to how reliable his Williams will be. Last year, the team's brave attempt to introduce a new gearbox to a new car cost points. The winter testing has focused on the active suspensions and on this development the championship may hinge. An active system allows the car's electronics to control the ride height; previously it was the driver who adjusted it, usually in conjunction with weight and balance changes caused by the falling fuel level or the tyres wearing unevenly.

All of these data and more can be programmed into the on-board computer. The ad-

Date	Race	Venue
March 1	South Africa	Kyalami
March 22	Brazil	Interlagos
April 6	Spain	Barcelona
May 3	San Marino	Imola
May 17	Monaco	Monte Carlo
June 7	Canada	Montreal
June 14	France	Maguy Cours
July 12	Britain	Silverstone
July 26	Germany	Hockenheim
Aug 16	Hungary	Hungaroring
Aug 30	Belgium	Spa
Sept 13	Italy	Monza
Sept 27	Portugal	Estoril
Oct 25	Japan	Suzuka
Nov 8	Australia	Adelaide

RESERVE RACE: Grand Prix of Europe, Jerez.

SCORING SYSTEM: A grand prix victory is worth ten points, with second place worth six, third place four points, fourth three, fifth two and sixth one. All points scored count towards the drivers' and constructors' championships. Six can also be awarded for the best-performing places — two from the Larousse and Andrea Moda Formula teams and one each from Footwork and Fondmetal.

BETTING (Larousse): 4-6: A Senna, 5: Senna, 6: Prost, 7: Mansell, 8: P. Barrichello, 9: S. Berger, 10: J. Alesi, 11: C. Capelli, 12: M. Schumacher, 13: M. Brundle.

vantage lies in that the driver is less likely to make errors, because he can, as with the semi-automatic gearbox, concentrate wholly on driving without taking his hands off the steering wheel.

When Mansell won in 1985, he had a Honda engine and one of his main rivals then was Alain Prost. The absence of Prost, a three-time world champion, has cast a shadow over this year's proceedings, even if it is likely that he will slip into a Ligier during the Formula One season.

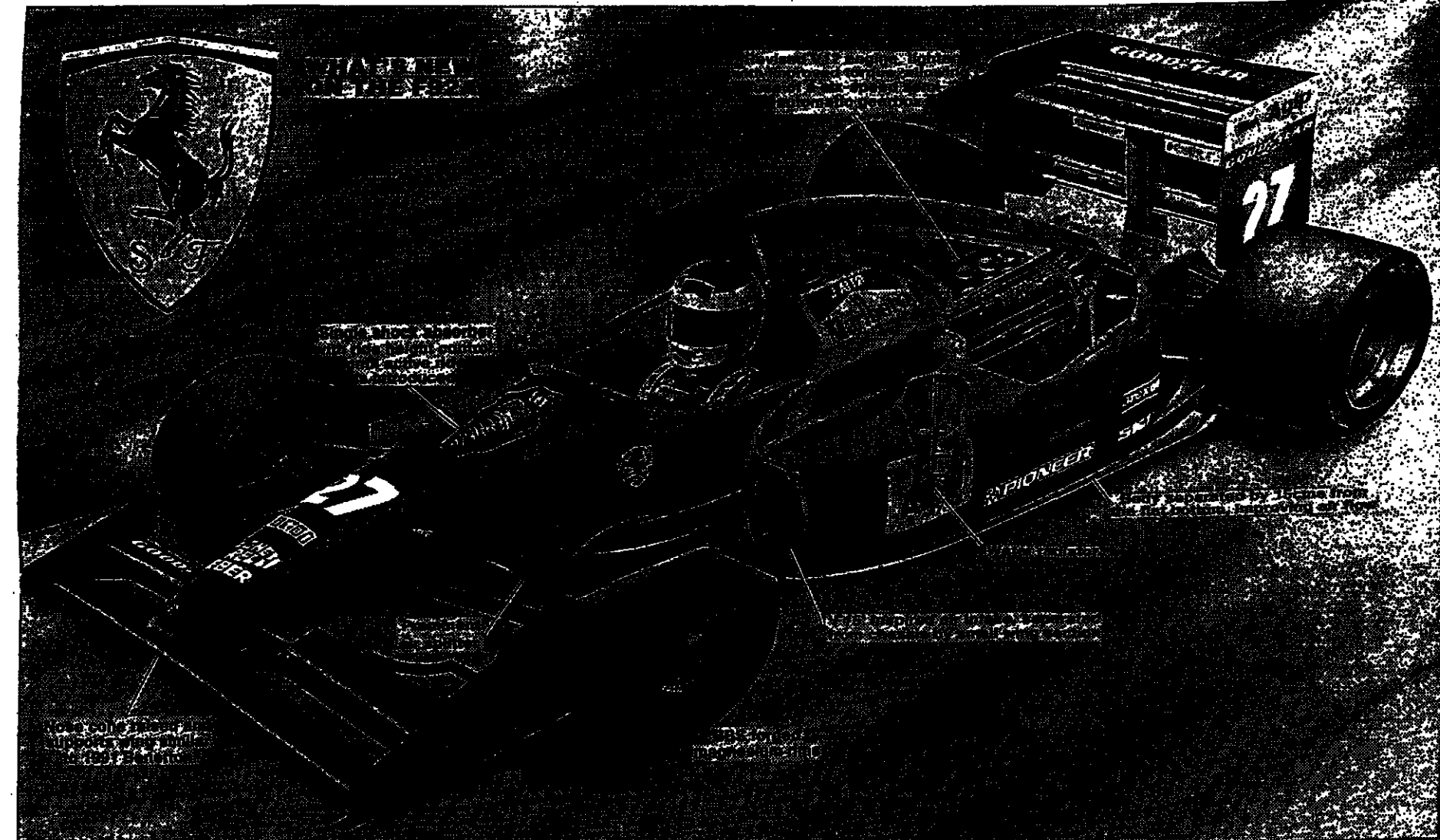
But Prost, like Nelson Piquet, another former world champion who is out this season, may have become too greedy and Formula One has had to tighten its collective belt. The recession has found, and eliminated, the weaker elements.

Some teams, such as Brabham, Andrea Moda Formula, March and Larousse, have made it only by casting spells over generous, and perhaps naive, money men. But they are there, and all credit to them.

Prost's former team, Ferrari, has had a good winter, not so much on the test track but on the management front. Luca di Montezemolo, Harvey Postlethwaite and Niki Lauda, a formidable trio, have arrived, leading what looks like a formidable backroom, made up of experienced designers and engineers. However, the team appears to be weak on the track; the pit crew has suffered a bloodletting, so Jean Alesi and Ivan Capelli, who could really do with a steady hand, are left instead with young, relatively inexperienced race engineers.

Jordan and Lotus are sure to give a good account of themselves and attention will be focused on Giovanna Amati, a 29-year-old Italian woman, driving car No. 8. She will soon find that, once the red light turns to green, the hard-edged competitiveness of the division will take over.

Like her, another who can expect no favours is Max Mosley, the president of FISA, the international governing body. Now the honeymoon is over, there will be many gunning for him, especially those loyal to the man he ousted last year, Jean-Marie Balestre. Mosley has announced that he will be standing for reelection at the end of this year. That is an invitation to the kind of open warfare that has been associated with activities on the track.



THIS IS THE FW18C, the car that Ferrari hope will restore their fortunes and take them back into contention for the world championship after last year, one of the worst in the Scuderia's history. The revised model numbering system, introduced by Luca di Montezemolo, the new president of Ferrari, is one small example of the total rethink that has been happening at Maranello, the team's headquarters near Bologna.

It has taken a huge effort for Ferrari to ready three cars for the start of the Formula One season

this weekend. After the dismal showing in 1991, morale was at rock bottom at Ferrari. Montezemolo immediately recalled Harvey Postlethwaite and made him the technical supremo. The first thing he insisted on was the construction of the FW18C model, which had been planned by Jean Claude Migeot, the Frenchman already responsible for the innovative design of the Tyrrell two seasons ago.

Postlethwaite pushed and harried and finally, on February 6, the first car was ready.

It took everyone by surprise: an

extraordinary-looking machine full of courageous and innovative aerodynamic solutions.

Migeot is happy to acknowledge that he has for a long time studied the design of fighter planes and, at first glance the FW18C is most striking because of the huge air intakes on the sidepods.

This is to find a more effective way of cooling the radiators which, as most grand prix take place in high ambient temperatures, is a constant problem.

From head-on the profile of the FW18C is very similar to that of the

F15 fighter aircraft. But that perspective also reveals the other big change to last year's model, a change that is as revolutionary as his raised-nose breakthrough at Tyrrell.

Migeot has hung a new, flat bottom of the chassis of the car. The reason for this is that all airflow studies on Formula One cars concern three areas — above the car, inside and below.

The first takes in the general shape of the car and the front and rear wings; the second is concerned with making as permeable as possible the driver's area,

the third with the way air flows underneath the car.

This is where Lotus all those years ago came up with the infamous miniskirts, subsequently banned, in order to channel the airflow to the car's advantage. Migeot has thought of channeling part of the underflow through this new flat bottom which hangs 15cm from the flat part of the underside. If it works, and there has been much wind tunnel testing of this, this solution should help make the car slip better through the air and be more stable.

GUIDE TO THE TEAMS AND DRIVERS FOR THE 1992 SEASON

McLaren

Drivers: No. 1, A Senna (Br), aged 31, 128 grands prix, 23 wins, debut 1984; 2, G Berger (Austria), 32, 115, 6, 1984. Engine: Honda V12.

Undoubtedly the team to beat. In Ayrton Senna, the world champion, McLaren have the best driver and, in Gerhard Berger, a man who in any other team but Williams would be the No. 1 driver. In South Africa, the car will be the same as that which ended the 1991 season winning the championship, though Honda are bound to have improved their V12 engine further.

Williams
Drivers: 5, N Mansell (Br), 27, 165, 21, 1980; 6, R P. Barrichello (Br), 27, 224, 5, 1977. Engine: Renault V10.

Last year's runners-up and still the only team with a realistic chance of taking the title away from McLaren. It remains to be seen whether the active suspension, if and when used, will prove to be an advantage or a hindrance to Nigel Mansell in particular. This must be his last chance to win a world title.

Benetton

Drivers: 19, M Schumacher (Ger), 23, 0, 1991; 20, M Brundle (GB), 32, 0, 1991. Engine: Ford V8.

Martin Brundle and Michael Schumacher will do well, but the team is in disarray because a number of key personnel left to join John Barnard's proposed team with Toyota. The arrival of Tom Walkenshaw should stiffen the technical side, but the Ford V8 engine may be outperformed by the other teams' V10s and V12s.

Ferrari

Drivers: 27, J Alesi (Fr), 27, 30, 0, 1989; 28, J Capelli (It), 28, 70, 0, 1985. Engine: Ferrari V12.

This should be Ferrari's comeback year. The appointment of Luca di Montezemolo and the hiring of Niki Lauda should sort out some of the dinosaurs who have been inhibiting the corridors of power and raising much of the team's effort. The new car looks good, the engine is bound to be one of the best and the drivers have everything to prove.

Jordan

Drivers: 32, S Modena (It), 26, 58, 0, 1987; 33, M Gugelmin (Br), 28, 58, 0, 1989. Engine: Yamaha V12.

1992 may be a tough year for Eddie Jordan and his team. The arrival of Yamaha is a big step forward in the long term, but, in the short term, the team may have to suffer a number of failures while the Japanese get their act together. The money seems to be there and, in Stefano Modena, they have one of the season's potential winners.

Tyrrell

Drivers: 3, O Grouillard (Fr), 33, 25, 0, 1989; 4, A de Cesaris (It), 32, 165, 1, 1980. Engine: Imor V10.

Against the odds, Ken Tyrrell has managed to sort out a team for this season. The recession has hit Formula One hard and Tyrrell struggled through the winter to find an engine deal and drivers. The Imor engine has a line pedigree in the United States, but has been lacklustre in Formula One. Tyrrell may be let down by his drivers.

Larousse

Drivers: 23, G Pasquini (Br), 21, 0, 0, 1992; 24, G Mortard (It), 24, 18, 0, 1990. Engine: Lamborghini V12.

Another team that only just made it through the winter, although it is still in a form of suspended receivership. The season will be one long financial struggle and it is hard to see Bertrand Gachot or Ukyo Katayama, the newcomers, making much of an impression.

Andrea Moda Formula

Drivers: 34, A Caffi (It), 27, 56, 0, 1985; 35, E Bertagnoli (It), 27, 0, 0, 1992. Engine: Judd V10.

This is the old Coloni team, it failed to qualify last year. This year, it has already started major troubles and yesterday evening was disqualified from appearing in the season's first grand prix.

Scuderia Italia

Drivers: 21, J Lehto (Fin), 26, 23, 0, 1989; 22, P Martini (It), 30, 70, 0, 1990. Engine: Ferrari V12.

This is where the Ferrari engine has gone and it will be interesting to see whether they can do better than Minardi with it. They impressed last year, doing much with few resources. Pierluigi Martini has a year's experience with the Ferrari power unit, while J Lehto is one to watch for the podium.

Amati: difficult start

Minardi

Drivers: 25, G. Pasquini (Br), 21, 0, 0, 1992; 26, G Mortard (It), 24, 18, 0, 1990. Engine: Lamborghini V12.

Minardi have lost the Ferrari engine, which may be a blessing as the team struggled last year after having spent much money to increase the size of its operation in order to accommodate the engine. Gianni Morbidelli is a solid driver and if Christian Fittipaldi is made of the same stuff as his father and uncle, this could be a good year.

Footwork

Drivers: 9, M Alboreto (It), 35, 153, 5, 1981; 10, A Suzuka (Japan), 31, 27, 0, 1989. Engine: Honda V10.

It is hard to see this team doing much, despite the presence of the Honda-Mugen engine. It proved to be heavy and unreliable in last year's Tyrrell.

Lotus

Drivers: 11, M Hakkinen (Fin), 23, 15, 0, 1991; 12, J Harbottle (GB), 27, 15, 0, 1989. Engine: Ford V8.

Lotus could provide the surprise this season. The engine is the reliable Ford V8, the team is experienced and ably led by Peter Collins and Peter Wright and the drivers are potentially two of the best on the grid. They are hungry for success and even seem to have the right money behind them.

March

Drivers: 15, K. Wendlinger (Austria), 23, 2, 0, 1991; 17, P. Belmondo (Fr), 28, 0, 0, 1992. Engine: Imor V10.

This is last season's Leyton House team which has shed its disgraced Japanese backers and have struck out on their own. Finance will be a problem, but, in Karl Wendlinger and Paul Belmondo, they have two promising young drivers.

Fondmetal

Drivers: 14, A. Chiesa (Switz), 27, 0, 0, 1992; 16, G. Tarquini (It), 28, 24, 0, 1987. Engine: Ford V8.

This is an Italian team made in England. The car is built near Leicester and the Ford engine is also British. Gabriele Tarquini is an able journeyman while Andrea Chiesa is the latest of a batch of good F3000 drivers who have managed to get a Formula One drive, though at this team can give him experience.

Ligier

Drivers: 25, T. Boutsen (Bel), 34, 137, 3, 1983; 26, E. Comas (Fr), 28, 13, 0, 1991. Engine: Renault V10.

This week, Alain Prost said he would not drive in South Africa, so Thierry Boutsen and Erik Comas can get on with the job, but it must be unsettling for the team to have the uncertainty. This may nullify any advantage over the other second division teams that the Renault engine might have provided.

Brabham

Drivers: 7, E van de Poel (Bel), 30, 1, 0, 1991; 8, G. Amati (It), 23, 0, 0, 1992. Engine: Judd V10.

One of the teams hardest-hit by the recession, Brabham had to leave their base in Chesham and relocate in Milton Keynes. They lost people and subsequently the chance to sign a Japanese driver, who would have brought much-needed sponsorship. The eleventh-hour signing of Giovanni Amati has brought some relief.

Mansell: last chance?

1991 RESULTS

DRIVERS: 1, A Senna, 95pts; 2, N Mansell, 72; 3, R. P. Barrichello, 53; 4, S. A. Prost, 34; 5, M. Piquet, 26.5; 6, J. Alesi, 21; 7, S. Modena, 10; 8, G. Cesaris, 9; 9, T. Boutsen, 8; 10, P. Martini, 8; equal 11, J. Lehto, 8; G. Pasquini, 8; equal 13, S. Hakkinen, 8; equal 14, S. Harbottle, 8; equal 15, S. Harbottle, 8; equal 16, S. Harbottle, 8; equal 17, S. Harbottle, 8; equal 18, S. Harbottle, 8; equal 19, S. Harbottle, 8; equal 20, S. Harbottle, 8; equal 21, S. Harbottle, 8; equal 22, S. Harbottle, 8; equal 23, S. Harbottle, 8; equal 24, S. Harbottle, 8; equal 25, S. Harbottle, 8; equal 26, S. Harbottle, 8; equal 27, S. Harbottle, 8; equal 28, S. Harbottle, 8; equal 29, S. Harbottle, 8; equal 30, S. Harbottle, 8; equal 31, S. Harbottle, 8; equal 32, S. Harbottle, 8; equal 33, S. Harbottle, 8; equal 34, S. Harbottle, 8; equal 35, S. Harbottle, 8; equal 36, S. Harbottle, 8; equal 37, S. Harbottle, 8; equal 38, S. Harbottle, 8; equal 39, S. Harbottle, 8; equal 40, S. 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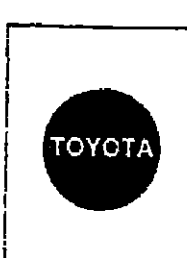


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LIFE & TIMES

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 28 1992



MOTORING
The gloves are
off in the
battle of the
fleet cars

Ireland's first woman puts women first

The protocol of high office has almost muzzled Mary Robinson, president of the Republic, but this week's events are testimony to her years of campaigning

Ireland has been in the psychiatrist's chair this week, keening and wailing and exposing its anguish to the international glare. Whatever its eventual consequences, the Case of the Irish Girl — humanely resolved by the Supreme Court's midweek decision — will surely be enshrined in folklore. The plight of the convent schoolgirl who waited, in her 12th week of pregnancy, to know whether five male Supreme Court judges would make her have her rapist's baby, or let her cross the Irish Sea for an abortion, gave a human focus to long-submerged arguments, and exposed the Irish taste for what some call pragmatism, others Nimby hypocrisy.

The case has unleashed an unprecedented outburst of self-examination, and Prof Anthony Clare, who now resides in Dublin in his chair of psychiatry, is listening. "We are such a theatrical nation," he sighs. "What do people think of us? Talk of pregnancy testing at airports, and Sinead O'Connor buttonholing the Taoiseach."

But it has also brought out the voice of Irish womanhood in formidable cry. I went to Dublin to hear Ireland's first woman president, whose campaign slogan to the women of Ireland was "You have a voice. I will make it heard." Mary Robinson, the radical barrister, architect of a Family Planning Bill (failed) in the 1970s, leading campaigner against the anti-abortion amendment to the constitution in 1983, promised in her own inauguration speech: "The hand that rocks the cradle can rock the system." Irish women, she said, needed the power to make their own decisions.

Where was that power in the past fortnight? Where was Mrs Robinson's zeal? Such is the predictable pitfall of holding high office. Having become a figurehead and a beacon, she has to be as circumspect as the Queen of England. Still, at least she was allowed to give a lecture this week. Last year, Charles Haughey had forbidden her to give the Dimbleby lecture, to widespread fury. But on Tuesday night in Trinity College, Dublin, she delivered the Allen Lane Foundation lecture. The late Sir Allen Lane, founder of Penguin books, left a trust which helps to fund women's groups in deprived areas of Ireland, a cause of which Mrs Robinson is mightily fond.

The atmosphere in the hall was electric, and Mrs Robinson was well aware of it. In Dublin that day there had been only one topic of conversation: the pregnant girl. Several women (and men) in the audience had come straight from a silent march to Leinster House, the parliament buildings, where they had festooned the railings with white ribbons on behalf of the girl and her family.

But the president defused expectations at once. It would be "neither appropriate nor possible" for her to be involved in the "tragic" court case which preoccupied us all. Instead, she spoke of women's role in society. In her deep voice, she quoted Mary Wollstonecraft and Virginia Woolf. She was eloquent. "Equality between the sexes is seen to be a woman's issue. It is not. It is said to be a marginal issue. It is not. It is perceived as a threat to the traditional structures of society. And it is not."

She has become "a witness and a listener" to Irish women's lives. She travels constantly to their co-operatives and crèches, collectives and community centres, bolstering women's resourcefulness and creativity in the face of grinding poverty and no state subsidies.

It was to a women's group in Waterford that Mrs Robinson made her one pronouncement on the case, about the "deep crisis in ourselves" that Ireland must resolve. Some chose to view this as an encouragement to the "pro-choice" faction — but she has always been emotionally against abortion, although in favour of "freedom of information for unmarried mothers", which can be interpreted a choice.

The formidably clever Mrs Robinson, full of passion and decked

out in dramatic suits on her campaign trail, had a mission and a vision of a new, forward-looking Ireland. Once installed, she has, as she promised, opened up Aras na Uachtaráin, the official residence, to the people, a light always burning in an upper window to show that she cares.

But in Ireland — it is a shock to realise this — she can excite heroine-worship by purely symbolic gestures. When she talks of the network of women's groups she launched "from Achill to Bohola, Clifden to Letterfrack, Tuam to Galway" it is just by mentioning these backwoods places that she makes women feel part of a movement for change.

"We have never before had someone at the top, speaking on behalf of women," they say. "This is what Mary Robinson has done for us." And if she can no longer voice her previous convictions, on

Fennell, another Fine Gael deputy, wrote: "In my heart I know that if my child was a pregnant rape victim I would help her get a termination and face the consequences later." Mary Harney, minister for the environment, went even further on John Bowman's *Questions and Answers* television programme: "If it's morally right in London, I can't see why it's morally wrong in Dublin." ("If she had said that in 1983," said Mavis Arnold, writer and veteran of the referendum campaign, "a bolt from heaven would have struck her dead and she'd have lost her seat.")

Memories of the campaign against the anti-abortion amendment in 1983 are still fresh in women's minds. It was so bitterly emotional that nobody seems to have the heart or the stomach for another referendum. "It was a painful campaign, full of verbal violence, and it ended with a sense of doom," one veteran says.

Vicious feelings had flared up, and in the end the "pro-life" faction achieved an amendment so worded as to enshrine in perpetuity in the Constitution a guarantee "to defend with its laws the right to life of the unborn". Many campaigns, including Mrs Robinson, predicted that one day there would be just such a case as that of the unfortunate rape victim. And even with the debate newly refreshed, nobody can be sure that a referendum held tomorrow might not produce exactly the same result, despite recent opinion polls. The divisions revived in the past fortnight have shaken everyone.

Permitting the 14-year-old girl to have her abortion, but in another country, exposes an à la carte Catholicism, whether people acknowledge it or not. Until the Supreme Court gives details of its reasoning, nobody knows yet whether it is based on the rights of the mother versus the fetus — which would be tantamount to questioning the Constitution — or on the simple right to travel. Until that is known, the possibility of another referendum is in abeyance. And what Ireland's position would be if it were not so conveniently close to England's abortion clinics, none can say.

Meanwhile Maxine Brady, a 23-year-old single mother from Northern Ireland, president of the Union of Students, carries on providing information about abortion services in England, ignoring an injunction placed on its activities pending another court ruling in May. Nothing, she says, will deter her providing this vital service to panic-stricken pregnant women: she gives telephone numbers, accommodation addresses. At least 100 women a week go from Ireland to England to have an abortion.

Abortion is an awesome business. Nobody wants it, likes it, or wishes it upon themselves. Mary Benoni, Ireland's only female MEP, has called the present situation "national schizophrenia". We don't mind people going to England for an abortion; we just don't want to have it here.

"There has been emotional upset and outrage," Professor Clare



"The hand that rocks the cradle can rock the system": Mary Robinson's inauguration slogan was more than just political polemic

says. "But it is only right that we should confront our moral dilemmas." He finds the Irish soul-searching a cause for pride. "It means we don't take divorce or abortion lightly. I am glad Ireland spends time debating these things. It is not ridiculous to discuss it. What distresses me is the way it is discussed, with so much personal animosity. We should ask ourselves whether we can live with disparate views on crucial issues, or whether one group can impose its views for eternity."

The next hurdle will be the Maastricht Treaty, with its special protocol giving Ireland the right to retain its ban on abortion.

Earlier this week it seemed likely that the whole treaty could be held up, because those who want the amendment repealed would be urged to vote against signing the treaty when the referendum on it is held in June. (All signatories have to ratify the treaty before it becomes law.) But if the Supreme Court has reached its decision on constitutional grounds, such action may be unnecessary.

As it is, the status quo remains. England is left to do the dread deed and the Irish can still believe

they live in a good Catholic country. The ancestral faith, with all its inconsistencies, is preserved; reminiscent, some think, of Charles Haughey's line when contraception first became available in Ireland "for bona fide family planning purposes" — "an Irish solution to an Irish problem."

"Look: there's a long tradition in Ireland of living a private life," Professor Clare says. "But people would rather leave things alone. People don't want to go further, because that would be to say we approve of abortion. You may call it hypocrisy, but this is Ireland."

He remembers that it was another 14-year-old pregnant rape victim, in Britain, whose abortion was performed after much thought by Dr Aleck Bourne, in 1939, that gave rise to the judgment on which Britain based its "mental health of the mother" justification, which lasted until the 1967 Act.

It may be that, as in the Ireland the tourists go for, slowness of progress is an advantage. It gives the Irish time to watch advanced nations slip down slippery slopes. "The feminist view," says a psychiatrist from Dublin's Well Woman clinic, which counsels post-abortion patients, "is that women must have a choice. But it's often the man, the boyfriend, who insists on the abortion, which usually means there's no future in the relationship anyway."

"Men are extraordinarily irresponsible at an individual level. And yet they still run this country: police, priests, bishops, legislators, gynaecologists — and Supreme Court judges."

This week, the young girl's fate was decided by the judges, presumably on the nod from the Irish bishops. Who might well have added that quintessentially Irish phrase: "Mind, I've said nothing."

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



the causes she was once so involved with — legalising divorce, opposing the abortion amendment? It matters not. The fact that she is there at all is quite enough.

"To have our president saying that women have to be written back into history," says Frances Fitzgerald, who chairs the Council for the Status of Women, "means she can get that concept across to the male population, the decision-makers. Women are still isolated and under-represented. Our policy-makers are almost exclusively male. The minister for women is a man (Tom Kitt). Yet there has been a deep psychological change in women themselves. The size of their families has dropped dramatically. They are not like their own mothers, who had no jobs, no family planning, and lagged far behind women elsewhere."

More than anything else, in the view of Monica Barnes, a Fine Gael deputy, the case of the pregnant schoolgirl has galvanised women into a new confidence "to assert and insist that this is an issue fundamentally for and about women. And we are not going to be silent any longer."

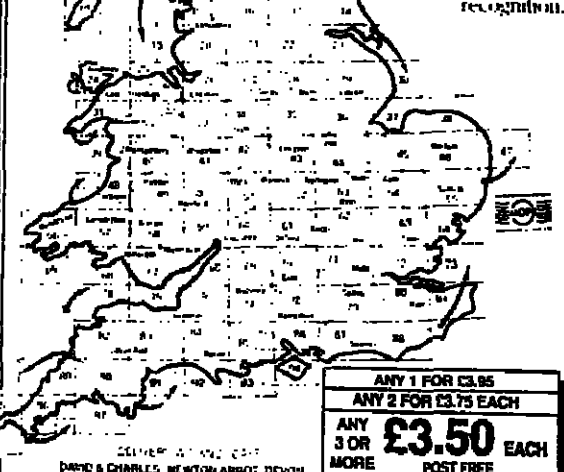
Yet not one female voice was given the chance to speak in the Dail's debate on the question. It was left to the *Irish Times* to give the women deputies — there are only 13, among 155 men in the Dail — space to state their views. Mrs Barnes, for instance, said she would have challenged and broken the law if her daughter had been in that predicament. Nuala



Following the leader: Frances Fitzgerald (left) and Maxine Brady challenge Ireland's status quo

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Will the Isle of Man come out?

For years a tiny crown dependency has attracted homosexuals, while officially making them outlaws. Now, Alice Thomson reports, a police raid and two deaths are forcing it to face uncomfortable truths

Manxmen like to tell you that they believe strongly in the freedom of the individual. The tax laws on the Isle of Man are generous, there are no breath tests for tipsy drivers, the wearing of seatbelts is a matter of personal choice and you can speed to your hearts content on the open roads. But this relaxed crown dependency still has hanging and birching on its statute books, abortions are illegal and homosexuality is a criminal offence.

The philosophy of selective liberalism has caused few problems. As long as Manx people did not openly flout the laws, few were concerned about what went on behind the pastel coloured shutters. Many homosexuals seemed to have chosen to live there precisely because they could carry on their lives without fear of "gay bashing".

Then, a fortnight ago, in a three day operation, police targeted alleged homosexual men in a series of arrests. Twenty-one men on the island were charged with gross indecency said to have taken place in a scruffy public lavatory in Noble's Park, Douglas, the island's capital. One of the men charged committed suicide after appearing in court. A heterosexual man who had not been arrested, later shot himself as police went to question him.

Gay activists alleged officers had been harassing the man because he had connections with the homosexual movement but a police spokesman has strenuously denied this, saying the police wanted to question him only about a motoring offence. The arrests came as the Tynwald, the island's parliament, prepared for a debate next month on whether homosexuality should be made legal between two consenting adults in private.

John Wright, the advocate for

'People that don't understand our feelings, should not come here'

FRANK ROGERS

the family of the first man who committed suicide, has issued a statement saying that his client's lengthy detention overnight in police custody was unnecessary, that his family should have been notified of his court appearance and that he was given no counselling, although he was obviously upset. The man, who was divorced and had a son, was found dead in his car after the court hearing. "The issue has been handled insensitively. The police have used videos of the men in the toilets. The press have given their names, ages and addresses. This is a small island. The men are obviously very distressed," Mr Wright says.

Amnesty International flew in a team over the weekend to enquire into the arrests; homosexual lobby groups in the United Kingdom have become involved and Manx people are squirming under the attention. Many of the 70,000 inhabitants believe that homosexuality should remain a criminal

offence but others fear that the island is clinging to a bygone age which will isolate it from the rest of Europe.

Douglas is a strange mixture of tax haven businesses, peeling guesthouses and retirement bungalows. Hazel Hannon, who was elected to the House of Keys, the lower house, last year after campaigning for a change in the laws on homosexuality, prefers to meet people in the railway cafe to discuss such a touchy subject. A third generation Manxwoman, she sees the law as an anomaly.

"We are on a collision course with both the British government and the European convention on human rights," she says. "If we do not amend the law, the British government may overrule the Tynwald and force the island into line. That would undermine our independence."

But Ms Hannon is not just interested in changing the law for constitutional reasons. She believes that if the Tynwald votes to legalise homosexuality among consenting adults, it will help to end pick-ups in public lavatories, and suicide. Police will still be able to arrest homosexuals for "gross

indecency" in public places but Ms Hannon hopes that if the Tynwald makes a stand it might help to create greater tolerance.

She has asked for the resignation of Robin Oake, the chief constable and a born-again Christian. "I can't understand why the

police cracked down now. There has always been a tolerance for homosexual activities on the island but people seem to be becoming less understanding," she says.

Kathy Rogers, would not welcome a change in the law. She

retired to the Isle of Man from Liverpool 15 years ago. "We look at the problems you have got on the streets in Britain - Aids, homosexuals openly kissing, porn videos, drugs and gay bashing and we don't want them here," Mrs Rogers says. Her husband, Frank,

agrees. "We would attract all the wrong sorts if we were forced to change the laws. Those that don't understand our feelings, shouldn't come over here."

For some, keeping homosexuals behind doors is not going far enough. Dorothy Duggan and her brother, Frank, live in a bungalow in Colby, where their family have been for four generations. "If we legalise sodomy, people gradually begin to accept it and think that it is right. But it is an abominable act and should not be permitted even in private," Miss Duggan says. "We are not being unkind and we don't despise these men. We feel deeply sorry for them."

Miss Duggan is a retired biology and religious education teacher. "Homosexual sex is like a drug - one fix and you are hooked. We must keep these people away from our young men," she says.

Twelve miles away in Peel the Reverend Matthew Else, a baptist minister, has organised a petition against changing the law. He says he gets most support from various religious groups which are growing in size on the island, such as the baptists and the born-again Christians, who have been drawn

to the island by its peacefulness. But he also points to a survey carried out in the *Isle of Man Examiner*, a weekly newspaper, where Manx people voted seven to one to maintain the status quo. "It would be unconstitutional for Britain to legislate over our heads when it is obvious that we are happy as we are," Mr Else says.

The end of the dream of non-troublesome homosexuals came last year on Tynwald day, the national holiday in July, when the homosexual pressure group Out-Rage! appeared alongside Manx dignitaries in morning dress and the island's only homosexual activist, Alan Shea, arrived wearing a concentration camp uniform with his head shaved. Mr Shea, aged 28, says he moved to the island nine years ago from Liverpool because he "thought it would be a quiet place to live" and he wanted to be with friends. He is the only man on the island who openly admits to being homosexual.

Mr Shea is the bane of many Manx people, forcing them to consider what they prefer to ignore. His flat in Douglas is the headquarters of the newly formed underground Eilan Vannin homosexual group. He believes the arrests were politically orchestrated to stop the campaign for change.

"I have lost a friend and a gay man is dead. The police are persecuting gay men and Miles Walker, the chief minister, has failed to keep the police under control," Mr Walker, who will vote to change the law, rejects this allegation. "The police are not abusing their powers. They have a law to enforce and that law would be enforced in the rest of Britain."

A group of homosexuals have met for a drink at Mr Shea's house. Mark, aged 35, has lived on the island all his life. "I had no support while growing up. If you live in Liverpool or London there is

'I cannot understand why they cracked down. People seem to be less understanding'

HAZEL HANNON

the gay switchboard, clubs and magazines. The few friends I had who were gay felt forced to marry," he says. Duncan, aged 32, chose to come to the island from Northern Ireland. "A lot of gays like coming here. There is no danger of queer bashing because we don't technically exist," he says.

At one of the island's hotels I chat to a cleaner about the oddity of an island that bans homosexuality having so many homosexuals. The cleaner confides that she is a lesbian. "They think it will be hunky-dory when the law changes but lesbianism is legal and it makes no difference. We will never be able to show our affection publicly on this island."

"What we have to remember," Mrs Hannon says, "is that the island was built up on the tourist trade and giving people a good time. For us to become hotter than thou is ridiculous. We cannot cocoon ourselves in a time warp if we want to prosper."



Supporter of the status quo: the Reverend Matthew Else. "It is obvious we are happy as we are"

The bane of people's lives: Alan Shea, who hosts the underground gay group. "I have lost a friend and a gay man is dead. I want to know when this will stop"

Thriller writer Carl Hiaasen loves Florida so much he wants to keep it to himself

Go ahead, make my day and leave

Carl Hiaasen tells a story, reported in American papers last week, of a ballet student kidnapped in New York and murdered. "Terrible," he says. "Chopped up in little bits." A pause. "They fed her to the homeless." Immediately a plot springs to mind: anti-privilege terrorists, seizing exponents of the pleasures of the wealthy and feeding them to the poor. "Ballet burgers," he says. Mr Hiaasen, a 38-year-old thriller writer and investigative reporter from Florida, cannot help laughing. He knows perfectly well that but for the setting it could be the start of one of his novels.

Mr Hiaasen has written four thrillers, all set in his native state. The latest, *Native Tongue*, starts with the kidnap of Vance and Violet, the last surviving pair of an endangered species, the blue-tongued mango vole. Only they are a pair of hamsters with their tongues painted blue so that a mob snitch on a witness relocation scheme can get a government grant of \$200,000 to preserve them in his theme park. *Skin Tight*, an earlier book, involved death by liposuction. *Double Whammy* featured a badly bitten by a pit bull terrier. He shot it, it got lockjaw and rigor mortis, and he wanders through the rest of the book with its festering head clamped to his arm.

Mr Hiaasen's books are horribly funny, tightly plotted, and very moral. Elmore Leonard loves them and PJ O'Rourke says they are better than literature. It comes as some surprise that their author looks like a cross between John Major and John Denver, and wears a neat shirt

with the collar tucked inside his nice Norwegian jumper. He looks sweet and innocent, with his engaging grin. But he is a man at war.

The population of Florida increases by almost 1,000 immigrants a day: 356,000 a year. "A city almost the size of Bristol," Mr Hiaasen says, to put it in perspective. "I want to scare those people away."

He does not mind visitors, but he does not want them to stay. "For 90 years Florida has been occupied by scoundrels whose only concern is how much profit they can make from each square foot of land, how much money they can bleed. They don't care about the sunset or the eagles or the panthers or the bears. They don't even care about the golf or the fishing or whatever it is they're selling. They only see money. And places are being destroyed, for money, just because they are attractive."

To frighten those people, and their customers, away from the Keys and the Everglades and the mangroves and the wildlife, Mr Hiaasen takes the weird and whacky truth of Florida life and "cranks it up a couple of notches" for his books. It does not take much cranking. From the rednecks of the north to the volatile racial mix and record numbers of criminals in the south, Floridians

give him plenty to work with. The same mission inspires both his day job, as "opinionated news columnist - every city paper needs a son of a bitch" on *The Miami Herald*, and his novels.

Financially he could easily



Carl Hiaasen: get a return ticket

give up the day job, but "the columns let me get it all off my chest immediately". And the newsroom gives him a constant supply of raw material. Take the anti-Castro revolutionaries training for the invasion of Havana on a campsite in the Everglades, or the police officer who moonlighted as a drug dealer and was done for triple homicide, or the Disney World employee in his Pluto suit, so irritated by a child who pulled his tail that he drop-kicked him into the crowd. Disney was sued: "The parents said the kid was traumatised and would grow up to be a sniper

or something." All true stories. Mr Hiaasen researched law suits against Disney: "Hilarious. Not to them. To me. My sympathy is with the guy in the Pluto suit. Those are the kind of things I want happening in my theme park."

That policeman is the guy I want running security there. There's a mentality of macho here, part redneck, part Hispanic. Guys get into body building, and they eat steroids, and those can make you go into uncontrollable rages. And they get off on the punishment they can take. Macho masochism." From that Mr Hiaasen created Pedro Luz, *Native Tongue's* corrupt cop turned theme park security head, so tough he gnawed his own

foot off and felt no pain.

"Theme parks are so controlled, it's like android land, denying reality. And then nature hits back. A couple of years ago black vultures invaded Disney World. Their natural habitat had been destroyed, so they moved on to Magic Mountain, spooked all the trained rabbits and doves. They just sat there. 'We're here! We're ugly! We stink! You can't control nature!'"

Of course Mr Hiaasen is on the side of the vultures. "And I root for the crocodiles, and for the rattlesnakes. I love to see a crocodile sitting in the yard of a £200,000 condo-

minium. I will never miss an opportunity to savage evil causes at work, and satire is the most lacerating tool. Crooked politicians would much rather you were up on a soap box, preaching. Satire ruins their day."

He likes nothing better than to kill off, in his books, a crooked politician. "But I don't do it with 20 pages of disembowelling. I can't dwell on violence. Florida is an obsessively violent culture. Most people have guns."

"If I had a gun I'd just shoot myself in the foot. I've seen so much close up, as a reporter. College does not prepare you to walk on to the scene after a double homicide. It's not like on TV. So I satirise that belief that violence solves everything. When one of my characters gets stabbed to death with a stuffed marlin head, I'm saying look, if you want to be macho you don't even need a gun. Plus I celebrate every story where nature gets some revenge."

Does it all make him unpopular? "I'm not on the chamber of commerce's Christmas list," he says, but he gets letters of support too, and signs of success. A golf course project that had its eye on 40 acres of mangrove fell apart after Mr Hiaasen investigated it. And life has begun to imitate his art: in *Skin Tight* a TV presenter wanted to have cosmetic surgery on the air; this week, Mr Hiaasen says, the talk show host Geraldo Rivera is doing just that.

LOUISA YOUNG

Native Tongue is published by Macmillan at £4.99.

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Wenglish spoken

As Wales begins to celebrate, a guide to the voice of the valleys

You don't miss St David's Day in Wales. Weeks before, there are felt daffodil and leek brooches in the shops. And at school assemblies just before or after March 1 they will have a bash at speaking Welsh. Next day, back to English.

Well not English exactly. Not in the South Wales valleys. The language spoken in the one-time coal producing south is Wenglish.

The French have Franglais. The difference is that the French legislated against Franglais. In Wales, Wenglish is both a joke and a serious prop to English.

Only about 19 per cent of the people in Wales speak real, *Land of Our Fathers* Welsh, according to the last published census and the new figures will probably be no better - but its bastard child is alive and vocal from the Rhondda, across the Aberdare valley, up to Merthyr Tydfil and down to Swansea. It belongs to the industrial south: a tough mongrel mixture of a lingo, in no danger of dying.

It grew from the middle of the last century, when some 150,000 immigrant English workers more than doubled the population of the Rhondda. Carl George, who did her PhD in valleys-dialect, believes the first generation of incoming English must have swamped the Welsh speakers, but the next generation included some of the Welsh words they heard around them in their English.

Comie and have a bosh (times with bosh mothers say to their children. For anyone brought up on the

mixture, no other word quite carries the soft invitation of *cwch*. It means cuddle. You can also say, "cwch down" as in "cwch down and sleep now", and *cwch* or "twi down" (pronounced *rootee* from the Welsh word for small) for crouch. And our house like most of the others had a *cwch* under the stairs, which was the cupboard.

Carl Lewis, emeritus professor of Welsh, says the derivation is not obvious, but it could have come from the French word, *coucher*. "The English couch may have come from the same word," says Gareth Bevan, who is editing the new University of Wales Welsh dictionary.

Another Wenglish word which is so descriptive it should creep into English is *twp* (the word is a good for spitting out, hard, an insult, of course. It means *supid*, thick, but has an edge of affection to it used with English. Mr Bevan believes it may have started as the word for rain in the north of England.

Twypin mawr (tweepin mawor) - the mawr is plain Welsh for big - carries the meaning, say, Billy rather than anything more aggressive. "He's a bit of a twypin (deedoreth)", which is a

straight Welsh word, is what you say if you mean 'He's half-baked', or fedless.

Another word Wenglish-speakers have taken as their own is *daps*. A pair of *daps* is a pair of gymshoes. This, says Mr Bevan, is an example of a slang English word disappearing from English, but being preserved in Welsh. "It was used in Bristol and Hereford, and was 1914-18 war army slang," he says.

Some words are taken straight from Welsh, which may have been pinched from English in the first place, and by them from French: others have vaguer ancestry.

Bosh for wash basin always sounded to me like an economical way of saying both words together. Mrs George says that a *bosh* was a cooling tub for steel and became current in the iron-mining valleys. Mr Bevan says they never used it in Swansea where he lived. But the woman who controlled our kitchen always called a *bosh* a *bosh*. And if you messed around with anything on her table, you would be told pretty sharply not to *potch* (rhymes with *scotch*). *Patching* is messing around and a *potcher* can be a nuisance.

Children are told not to *dec* in school. To *dec* is to tell tales. In Welsh it means gossip. They should stand tidy in the gwl (tail, queue, pronounced to rhyme with hoot). Nowadays they might get away with wearing *daps* to school, though you can be sure the *crachach* (ch as in Scottish loch), the posh ones, are sure to want trainers.

YVONNE THOMAS

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Putting your back into the future

Computerised exercise machines do more than keep you healthy. They take you into another, fitter world, says Victoria McKee

Climb Mount Everest, swim the channel, play 18 holes at Pebble Beach and run the Boston marathon in the privacy of your own home. And all that, if you are a real enthusiast, before breakfast...

The new wave of often computerised exercise equipment flooding Britain promises not just fitness but a brave new world of simulated experiences for those with more money than time to spare. And according to those who market it, the market is growing at a phenomenal rate.

Fancy running the Boston Marathon? For less than the return fare via Concorde to the US (\$4,350), and with considerable savings on hotel accommodation and incidental expenses, you can buy the new Precor "9.5sp" treadmill which will let you experience that sensation — again and again. Your course is charted by computer on a screen, the surface beneath your feet automatically angling up or down as the route demands.

The Duchess of York's personal exercise trainer Josh Salzmann calls them the Rolls-Royce of treadmills. "I've done a lot of pushing of Precor treadmills to my clients because they're the best," says Mr Salzmann, who with his wife, Laura, runs a one-to-one training gymnasium at the Wentworth Golf Club.

Unlike some personal trainers who seem to fear the fancy machinery might supplant them, Mr Salzmann believes that "the more toys you have the more variety and fun the training can be".

Cardio-vascular (CV) fitness-enhancing equipment, such as exercise bicycles, treadmills and climbing machines, are leaving weight machines and multi-gyms standing, Mr Salzmann says. "You can give a complete and more flexible weight-training session with free weights — and I often just use my hands and towels. It's the CV machines people are going for."

His clients, who pay him £50 plus VAT per session, often have his "n" her 9.5sp in addition to a fleet of other machines. Among these are the motorised stair-walking simulator StairMasters (from around £2,000), a "Graviron" chin-up machine with a motorised platform (about £6,000) and a VersaClimber "total body machine" (£2,500), which has allowed diverse celebrities to aspire to the thrill of scaling Everest in their own homes.

The machine, which is distributed in the UK by Kynex, consists of a pole at a 30-degree angle against a stand, with levers to work the arms and legs as if climbing — and a computer monitoring how far you have gone. T-

shirts distributed to special customers proclaim "I've climbed Everest". According to Tony Majakas of Kynex, the VersaClimber was designed for the NASA space training programme "to be a total body machine exercising the upper torso as well as the legs in a very limited space".

But this premium fitness equipment is not just for celebrities. Alexandra Tramp, aged 41, of Little Chalfont, Buckinghamshire, heard about the VersaClimber at a local fitness centre and bought the middle-of-the-range model, at £2,500. She keeps it in her garage, along with an exercise bike and a computerised equipment. "I was just working part-time as a receptionist at the time," says

have all been private individuals who wanted a pool but had limited space — or wanted to incorporate it into a house they're building.

Another of the American imports in this buoyant new business is the Par-T Golf simulator, which can now be found in some British golf clubs and in Harrods' Olympic Way, where it is used to demonstrate golf clubs. This £23,750 toy, which with the help of infrared cameras and a computer tracks each golfer's drive and simulates the sensation of playing at nine of the greatest golf courses around the world, will soon be found in private homes. Alex Bladen-Hill of Jonathan Courtney, its UK distributors, even predicts that it will become a substitute for, or at least supplement to, golf courses.

'People today would rather spend money getting fit than fat. They're prepared to prioritise — and fitness is a high priority'

Mrs. Tramp, who has three children. "Shortly afterwards I became pregnant and the VersaClimber was wonderful to use during my pregnancy. So many friends began coming round to my house to try to use my machines that I've started to give them lessons."

If swimming the Channel is your fantasy, the state-of-the-art Swimex motorised endless lap pool (£22,000) could fulfil it. Marketed in Britain for 18 months (during which time only eight have sold) by Pep Pools, the pool is made by Tiltonson & Pearson, a New England firm more famous for its yachts. The current is created by a paddle wheel the full width of the two-metre-wide pool which pulls the water past the swimmer. Its strength can be adjusted as you swim. The basic model, which is three-and-a-half metres long, allows you to swim up to four-and-a-half miles per hour; the larger, deluxe model (£35,000) permits speeds of up to six miles per hour.

Since the Swimex requires less than a tenth of the water volume of a conventional 30ft pool, it saves a considerable amount not only on space but also on heating and maintenance.

Pep Reiff, owner of Pep Pools, says: "They are just starting to go into health clubs and hotels, but my clients

landed on the genuine course in question, and is carefully angled so that the real ball does not pop back at players.

Why is this market for luxury fitness equipment showing such vigorous growth in the current climate? Ron Bredney, managing director of Life Fitness Systems, believes it is simply because "people want to feel good about themselves". His company is now marketing the American-made "Life Cycles" (from £1,200) and Life Rower (£3,265), which allow users to compete with computerised challenges or link up with real ones on compatible machines.

"The first year I started selling these things, six years ago, we had a turnover of £112,000," he says. "Last year it was £2.4 million, this year more than £3 million." If there is a recession, he feels, his market is unaffected by it.

Mr Salzmann agrees. "People today would rather spend money getting fit than fat," he says. "Even if they're cutting back in other areas, they're prepared to prioritise — and fitness is a high priority."

Life Fitness makes a point of only marketing products "for normal people", Mr Bradney emphasises. "If something wouldn't do for a 60-year-old lady who had never exercised before as well as an Olympic athlete, we wouldn't handle it." The new Life Cycle Recumbent exercise bicycle (£2,695), with its comfortable reclining seat, would suit even Pavarotti, he maintains, as it supports the back and "bigger bottoms which can go numb on a bicycle seat".

Most of this expensive, sophisticated, American-made equipment is confined to exclusive private clubs, such as the new David Lloyd Tennis Centres and marketed merely by word of mouth. Club members use it and enquire about buying it.

Private trainers put clients in touch with suppliers — often for sizeable commissions — and everyone benefits by cutting out the middleman. So Harrods, whose Olympic Way offers retail supplies of exercise equipment, has very few calls for the more expensive items.

According to its buyer Richard Potzesny, "We'd be lucky if we sold more than maybe six Powerlog treadmills a year."

While Harrods will happily order specialised equipment, some items are just too expensive or specialised for the current market. One such is the Aerotrim from Germany, a £6,000 giant gyroscope rather like the American Orbotron, which provides a low-impact aerobics workout for those who do not get dizzy easily. The store has yet to sell one.

Mr Potzesny has just returned from a trade fair of sports equipment in the United States, where the most coveted items available in Britain today have been developed and manufactured. Over there, he noted, "The fitness market is on the decrease — they're pulling their belts in, and sales have been very tough."

Here too, people are going for the smaller items, he says, such as Reebok "steps" which sell for around £70. Affordable state-of-the-art training shoes are also proving popular. Typical of these is the Puma "Disc" (£80-90), launched this month and in the shops from next week. These are constructed with a mechanism which moulds them to fit the foot at the flick of a disc, without laces or Velcro. The choice of exercise, on staircases or mountains, is then yours.

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Mountaineer: Alexandra Tramp with her personal £2,500 "total body" VersaClimber

Flu to break the heart

TERRY WOGAN'S family have very reasonably declined to comment on press reports that suggested that his recent attack of flu had been complicated by myocarditis (inflammation of the heart muscle) and that this was why he had been admitted to hospital.

It seems probable that transient myocarditis following influenza is very much more common than is supposed, and that only those cases in which the symptoms are severe are diagnosed. Everybody expects to suffer aches and pains in their limb muscles when they have flu and, the argument goes, if these muscles are affected, then why should the virus spare the heart muscle?

Other viruses, in particular the Epstein-Barr virus that causes glandular fever, the coxsackievirus and other enteroviruses, are also frequent causes of myocarditis. A patient with overt myocarditis suffers from severe fatigue,



MEDICAL BRIEFING
Dr Thomas Stuttford

complaints of chest discomfort, restlessness, a racing heart and palpitations. Changes in the heart sounds, blood tests, and examination by electrocardiogram and ecocardiogram help to make the diagnosis.

Treatment aims to prevent acute fulminant heart failure or, as happens in most cases, the insidious development of chronic failure. In the acute stage, physical demands on the heart muscle

should be reduced to a minimum, so bed rest is essential. If necessary, drugs are prescribed to correct the rhythm of the heart and to counteract any signs of heart strain.

In some cases steroids are used, but initial optimism about their efficacy has given way to caution. Convalescence is slow and patients who have had obvious myocarditis may take weeks, or even months, to recover.

Although no one would wish anybody to have an unpleasant and dangerous disease, publicity about the condition is useful if it discourages squash players, footballers and other athletes from taking violent exercise when they have flu or a temperature. Every year deaths are reported from this cause. When ill, an athlete should be sitting with his or her feet up by the television set, not out with the flannelled fools running about on the games field.

No room to breathe

WORLD recession or not, people still suffer from peptic ulcers, migraine and asthma, so it is no surprise that last week Glaxo's interim report was as optimistic as ever.

Zantac continues to be widely prescribed for ulcers, Imigran promises to revolutionise the treatment of severe migraine, and its respiratory drugs Becotide, an inhaled steroid, and the beta-agonists Ventolin and Serevent are among the front runners in the treatment of asthma.

The report by the Committee on the Safety of Medicines (CSM) on the treatment of asthma with beta-agonists was also released last week, but appeared too late to get a mention in the Glaxo report.

Considerable alarm was caused last year by press and television speculation that a patient's well-trusted beta-agonist inhaler might be doing more harm than good by causing a dangerously irregular heartbeat, and might even be contributing to the increase in the mortality from asthma.

The committee, which is a cautious body by nature, is reassuring on the matter. It concluded that the current evidence available did not confirm a suggestion that the increased use of beta-agonists had contributed to the rise of the death rate from asthma, and affirmed its belief that their appropriate prescription enhanced the quality of life for the many patients now suffering from asthma.

Beta-agonists, such as Ventolin, are useful for an acute attack of asthma, and for the prevention of an anticipated attack, as for example before vigorous exercise, or the unavoidable exposure to the mother-in-law's cat.

The use of longer-acting beta-agonists, such as Serevent ("long-acting" as a term is decried by the CSM, which wants the duration of action to be clearly stated) remains useful in the relief of symptoms in chronic asthma.

Discussing the use of steroid inhalers was not part of the CSM's brief, but these remain the long-term treatment of choice for asthma, only supplemented if need be by the longer-acting beta-



agonists. Ventolin or its equivalent is useful as a first-aid measure. The CSM warns patients of the dangers

Springing into action

AS THE evenings lighten, joggers, like spring migratory birds, start to reappear in the parks and on the roads. Even in the man who is a 10st 10lb weakling, the impact of each footstep applies a weight pressure of 200lb to the foot, so over a three-mile jog the feet would have had to deal with more than 650 stressful tons.

Training shoes are made with shock-absorbing soles, and runners are also warned to keep to the soft grass so that the jarring impact on the spine, knees and hips is lessened. Even the average person walks around 6,000

paces a day, also absorbing those 650 tons, but usually in traditional footwear that, unlike the training shoe, has little shock-absorbing ability.

Scholl has introduced a shoe insert, marketed under the name Backease, which will lend the shock-absorbing qualities of the runner's trainers to the ordinary shoe. The manufacturer claims that the cushion absorbs about 77 per cent of the shock of the impact which would have otherwise tormented the joints of those who walk or stand on hard floors and concrete pavements.

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CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 **Channel 4 Daily** (9041751) 9.25 **Scenes** (94255393)
- 12.00 **The Parliament Programme** presented by Sarah Baxter. Includes Sir Robin Day interviewing a leading political figure (95616)
- 12.30 **Business Daily**. (28119)
- 1.00 **Seaside Street**. Entertaining pre-school learning series. The guest is actor Robin Williams (16374)
- 2.00 **File: Gentlemen Jim** (1942, b/w). The Errol Flynn season continues with his portrayal of the 19th-century boxer James J. Corbett who became the first world champion under the rules laid down by the Marquess of Queensbury. Easy-going biopic, directed by Raoul Walsh. (Teletext) (8206)
- 4.00 **Traveling**. The last in the series features reports from Belize and Pompeii (r). (Teletext) (s) (848)
- 4.30 **Countdown**. Richard Whitley introduces another round of the words and numbers game (s) (732)
- 5.00 **Coast of Dreams**. The second of two programmes examining the realities of life for expatriate Brits living on the Costa del Sol and for their native neighbours (r) (1206)
- 6.00 **Happy Days**. Nostalgic high school comedy series set in 1950s Milwaukee, starring Henry Winkler as the super-cool Fonzy. (Teletext) (225)
- 6.30 **Tonight with Jonathan Ross**. Includes a tribute to Elizabeth Taylor on her 50th birthday. The guest is singer Barry White (s) (87)
- 7.00 **Channel 4 News** with Dermot Murnaghan and Zeinab Badawi. (Teletext) Weather (522138)
- 7.50 **First Reaction**. A rap version of a boy scout camp fire song is reviewed (747683)
- 8.00 **Brookside**. Soap set in a suburban Merseyside close (1683)



Rock around the Soviet bloc: American Dean Reed (9.00pm)

Eastman Kodak Company, Eastman Kodak and Kodak (S. 00-1)

Graduating to adulthood: the adolescent brain-packers (10.20pm)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes

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302-43233) 3.25 Night E
4.25-5.30 Pmc There's Always
5291349)

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Suite, Sz. 77; Budapest Festival Orchestra under Ivan Fischer	World's Top 1961 Abernethy International Youth Festival Competition under Eino Uusiluoma
7:30 News	8:00 News
8:30 Morning Concert (cont.): D'Indy (Swedish and French); Op. 24; Paganini (Aragon, Paganini, Carlini, Rute, Maurice Bourgeois, obscure, etc.); Waltzes, Strauss, etc.; Maures, Lisson, and Carmel; Cazetel, horn; Lakow; Tastato on two folk songs; Lige PO under Pierre Bartholomew; Casatehno; Tancos; Barnett Bennett, flute; Simon	8:30 News Montana Taylor. The first of five programs in which the author of "Billboard Grand" examines the work of pianists who have contributed to piano history
7:00 News	7:00 News

endangered human
about the man who
injured, dying or de

7.20-8.05 Pick of the Week (PM only), with Chris Searle (S) 7.20
7.20 Woman's Hour (LW only) (F) 7.20
8.05 Newsweek? Jonathan Dimbleby is joined by Lord Simon Jenkins, editor of the Times; Charles Kennedy, MP, president of the Liberal Democrats; Joan Ruddock, MP, Labour party transport spokeswoman; and Norman Tebbit, MP 8.05

Birmingham. Jenni explores the connection

between faith and practice, Inci 11.00 News

1.30 The Natural History Programme: Jessica Holm invites listeners to contribute to a book on people and plants in Britain

2.00 You and Yours, with John Howard

Caribbean Than Ever. Lucy Duran attends a music festival in Mexico's Yucatan peninsula (S) 1

9.45 Letter from America by Alistair Cooke

10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lustig (S)

10.45 A Book of the Week by

2.25pm The Food Project
with Derek Cooper

1.00	The World at One, with James Cosmo	11.00	Week Ending: A satirical review of the week's news with Sally Garg, David Goff, Gairf McGuern and Simon Godley (a)
1.40	The Archers 1.55 Shipping Forecast		
2.00	Classic Serial: Buddenbrooks - The Decline of a Family. Second of a six-part dramatisation of Thomas Mann's novel (a)	11.25	Specialist Week, with Nigel Cassidy (a)
3.00	Special Assignment	11.45	Ten in Parliament
		12.00-12.45am News, and 12.27 - 12.45am News at Ten, and 12.45 - 1.00am World Service (LW only)	
REQUIREMENTS: Radio 1: 1063kh/235m; Radio 2: 1215kh/207m; Radio 3: 1215kh/207m; Radio 4: 95.8kh/161m; Radio 5: 95.8kh/161m; Radio 6: 95.8kh/161m; Radio 7: 603kh/143m; Radio 8: 909kh/230m; LBC: 1548kh/149m; Radio 9: 1548kh/149m; Radio 10: 1548kh/149m; Radio 11: 1548kh/149m; Radio 12: 1548kh/149m; Radio 13: 1548kh/149m; Radio 14: 1548kh/149m; Radio 15: 1548kh/149m; Radio 16: 1548kh/149m; Radio 17: 1548kh/149m; Radio 18: 1548kh/149m; Radio 19: 1548kh/149m; Radio 20: 1548kh/149m; Radio 21: 1548kh/149m; Radio 22: 1548kh/149m; Radio 23: 1548kh/149m; Radio 24: 1548kh/149m; Radio 25: 1548kh/149m; Radio 26: 1548kh/149m; Radio 27: 1548kh/149m; Radio 28: 1548kh/149m; Radio 29: 1548kh/149m; Radio 30: 1548kh/149m; Radio 31: 1548kh/149m; Radio 32: 1548kh/149m; Radio 33: 1548kh/149m; Radio 34: 1548kh/149m; Radio 35: 1548kh/149m; Radio 36: 1548kh/149m; Radio 37: 1548kh/149m; Radio 38: 1548kh/149m; Radio 39: 1548kh/149m; Radio 40: 1548kh/149m; Radio 41: 1548kh/149m; Radio 42: 1548kh/149m; Radio 43: 1548kh/149m; 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